

Rocket kills 23 in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan resistance fired 17 rockets on Kabul's residential areas, killing 23 civilians, the official Afghan Radio reported Tuesday. Kabul Radio, in a broadcast monitored in Islamabad, said 28 other people were wounded in the surface-to-surface rocket attack Monday evening. The dead included children and women. It said one rocket hit a house in southern Kabul, killing five members of the same family. Six people were killed in a children's playground in the centre of the capital. Some of the victims were returning home from work, the radio added. The ruling Communist Party condemned the attack in a meeting held Tuesday describing it as "crimes committed by the enemies of peace and peace-loving citizens." The party urged authorities to ensure the city's security, the radio said. The radio reported Monday that the security forces foiled an attempt by the resistance to fire rockets on the capital's residential areas. It was not clear if the incidents were related. In another development, the resistance attacked the central city of Ghazni, killing one person and injuring six. The attack came only six days before an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan are due to begin pulling out under U.N.-mediated accords.

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Crown Prince hosts iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hussein hosted an iftar for non-commissioned officers of the Armed Forces and the Public Security and Civil Defence departments. The iftar, held at Al Hussein Youth City, was attended by the assistant chief of staff for manpower and other senior army officers.

Israel says commando killed

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Lebanese resistance fighter in a clash in South Lebanon early Tuesday, the military command said. No Israeli casualties were reported. The clash occurred shortly after midnight on the border of Israel's self-designated "security zone" in Lebanon, according to the army. The army said the Israeli soldiers spotted a commando squad that apparently tried to infiltrate into the "security zone" and plant land mines on the roads used by Israeli troops. It said the fighter who was killed carried a rifle, a Katyusha rocket and two land mines.

Gorbachev: Reform causes turmoil at high level

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said in a speech released Tuesday that his ambitious "perestroika" programme to reform Soviet society had created mass turmoil, even at the country's highest levels. In a speech last Saturday to editors of leading newspapers and journals, Gorbachev said many communist party members were unprepared to implement "perestroika" (restructuring). "We have seen that far from all cadres are ready to evaluate the present situation correctly," he said. "We have revealed a real turmoil in the minds of many people — workers, intelligentsia and leading cadres, not only below but at the top."

Mercouri in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Greek Culture Minister Melina Mercouri arrived in Turkey Tuesday with a message for Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and kind words about the many traditions shared by the sparring nations. Mercouri, the first Greek minister to make an official visit to Turkey since Turkish troops occupied northern Cyprus in 1974, told reporters her message from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu dealt with "the new friendship."

Sytenko holds talks in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A Soviet envoy discussed the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan with Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials Tuesday. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. It said roving Ambassador Mikhail Sytenko, who arrived from Amman Monday on an Arab tour, discussed conflicts in Afghanistan, the Gulf and the Middle East with Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Suleiman Majid Al Shaheen.

Brunei may join OPEC

RIYADH (R) — Brunei is interested in joining the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Sultanate's ambassador to Riyadh was quoted as saying Tuesday. In an interview in the Riyadh Daily, Darul Malai Haji Ahmad said Brunei was seriously considering joining the 13-member oil group. Brunei is the third largest oil producer in Southeast Asia after Indonesia and Malaysia. Since independence in 1984, Brunei has followed a policy of cooperation with OPEC policies.

U.S. orders withdrawal of Singapore diplomat

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Tuesday it had ordered the withdrawal of a Singapore diplomat from Washington following Singapore's expulsion of an American diplomat last week.

PLO wanted joint delegation with Egypt, King reveals

Jordan proposes pan-Arab rapid deployment force

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that he had made a proposal to a number of Arab leaders attending the Amman Arab summit meeting last November to set up an Arab rapid deployment force that could intervene in any part of the Arab World exposed to external danger.

In an interview with the Agency France Presse (AFP) in Amman, the King said he proposed that the joint force consist of three divisions with a total of 30,000 men and that Jordan would be willing to contribute up to one third or one half of the force, which would serve the goals of the Arab League Charter and the Joint Arab Defence Pact.

Israeli army launches forced change of ID cards of Gazans

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — The Israeli army began a massive operation Tuesday to replace the identity cards of the entire population of the occupied Gaza Strip with the avowed aim of tightening control over Palestinian residents.

The operation means a change of documents for 400,000 people over the age of 16 in the Gaza Strip. Amid massive security, more than 700 Palestinian men waited for hours under makeshift tents to receive new cards which army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said aimed at increasing Palestinian dependence on Israel.

Once foreign journalists had left, witnesses quoted by news agency said Israeli officials confiscated the old ID documents of many applicants and ordered them to produce proof that they had paid taxes, water and electricity bills and had no outstanding criminal cases before they could receive the new card.

Others were told to report for interrogation by Israel's Shin Bet secret police, the witnesses said. Those who do not have the new cards will be barred from leaving the Gaza Strip, and thus from work in Israel. They also face fines and possible imprisonment.

A U.N. official observing the proceedings said it reminded him of the slogan "big brother is watching you" from George Orwell's novel "Nineteen Eighty-four" depicting life in a future totalitarian world.

Underground leaders issued a warning from a mosque loudspeaker, ordering Gazans not to

cooperate with the army. They said the programme was an attempt to abort the five-month Palestinian uprising.

Meanwhile Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian Tuesday after their jeep was stoned in the West Bank village of Ramin, near Tulkarem, the army command said.

The unidentified box was taken to Tulkarem hospital where he was listed in serious condition, Israeli Radio reported.

In Gaza, hundreds of people crowded into a school which has been converted into a makeshift registration centre. Many said the army forced them to come.

"All the identity cards in the Gaza Strip are being changed in order to increase the dependence (of the population) on the civil administration," Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

"If the aim of the uprising was to shake off this dependence, our aim is to increase it," parliament sources quoted Shomron as saying.

All three major resistance organisations in the Gaza strip — the United National Leadership of the Uprising, the Islamic Jihad and the Muslim Brotherhood — have called on Palestinians to boycott the new cards.

A U.N. official said Palestinians hurled stones at troops and set up roadblocks to protest against the move. But a massive army presence prevented a major outbreak of violence.

One witness told an Arab reporter that soldiers confiscated one portion of the Israeli-issued identity cards and stuffed them in huge plastic bags. Without the confiscated portion, the current card becomes invalid.

"It is Ramadan. We are fasting," said Ahmad Abu Hassan, 26. "We are not animals to spend all day here waiting. Instead of changing our identity cards, the Israelis should change their minds."

Iran repeats denial of Iraqi charges of shelling

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said its fighter-bombers pounded Iraqi frontline positions Tuesday but repeated denials its gunners had shelled a northern Iraqi border town.

A military communique, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, said Iranian jets flew 10 bombing missions against Iraqi troops, armour and fortifications at Sharrah on the south-central war front. All aircraft returned safely, it said.

IRNA carried two separate reports saying a war information headquarters spokesman had denied Iraqi charges that Iranian forces shelled the Kurdish town of Darbandikhan.

The spokesman said Iran would not attack Iraqi cities as long as Baghdad refrained from attacking Iranian centres.



HM King Hussein

"The Arab leaders welcomed the idea and showed interest in the proposal, but more contacts are needed before anything could materialise," the King said.

The King referred particularly to the situation in the Gulf and said the Arab provided meaningful help to Iraq in the war with Iran could have ended a long time ago and the danger posed to the Arab Gulf state would have been eliminated.

Asked whether there was any possibility of a new war in the Middle East, the King said, the situation was bound to explode if all efforts to reach a peaceful and acceptable settlement failed. "The Arabs should be alert and ready for any eventuality," the King said.

Egypt's Arab role

Replying to a question the planned extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers, the King said Jordan demands that Egypt be represented at the summit since it is a founding member.

(Continued on page 5)

Ibrahimi in Baghdad with summit invitation

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in Baghdad Tuesday to deliver an invitation to Iraq to attend an Arab League summit in Algiers.

Algeria convened the conference, after a request from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

An Arab diplomat said Ibrahimi would discuss issues related to the conference with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and formally invite him to attend.

Ibrahimi arrived here from Amman after delivering a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. The message contained an invitation to the King to attend

Saudi aid to Jordan unchanged

AMMAN (R) — Saudi Arabia is keeping up its aid to Jordan, but paying six instalments a year instead of three as in previous years, Central Bank Deputy Governor Maher Al Shukri said Tuesday.

"It's more orderly that way," said Shukri. He said Reuters that second instalment of \$59.9 million was transferred two days ago, just over a week late. Finance Minister Hanna Odeh announced the receipt of the amount Monday.

Rocard named French premier

PARIS (Agencies) — French President Francois Mitterrand, re-elected for a new seven-year term Sunday, named moderate Socialist Michel Rocard Tuesday to head his next government.

The announcement was made by Mitterrand's chief of staff, Jean-Louis Bianco, on the steps of the Elysee Palace after conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac handed in his resignation.

Chirac, who headed a two-year-old centre-right government, failed in his bid to unseat Mitterrand in Sunday's presidential election and is now retiring into opposition.

"The president of the Republic, taking into account Article 8 of the constitution, decrees that the functions of Mr. Jacques Chirac as prime minister and the other members of his government have ceased."

"Mr. Michel Rocard is named prime minister," Bianco said in a brief statement.

Rocard, 57, is a former minister of agriculture and planning who dropped out of this year's presidential race in favour of Mitterrand.

A dapper, combative man, he is an outsider in the Socialist Party for his outspoken defence of social democratic policies, including the free-market economy.

But he has been France's most popular politician and his name was greeted with rapturous applause at Mitterrand's campaign rallies.

Rocard is expected to name a centre-left government Thursday likely to include a large number of non-socialist or technocrats.

Rocard, 57, has run three times for president. He is known as one of France's most ambitious politicians, but also as one of the most popular, credited with a willingness for "straight talk."

Because Chirac still had support of the centre-right majority coalition in the National Assembly, the constitution did not require him to step down and the president could not dismiss him.

But there was never any doubt Chirac would quit if he lost Sunday's presidential runoff. Mitterrand captured 54 per cent of the vote, while Chirac got 46 per cent.

Mitterrand said the new premier would invite non-socialists into the cabinet to demonstrate an appeal beyond the party's boundaries.

Rocard's nomination appeared

Shevardnadze confident over INF

GENEVA (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze appeared confident Tuesday the U.S. Senate would ratify the superpower medium-range missile treaty, saying U.S. negotiators would not have proposed an unacceptable pact. Shevardnadze was speaking on arrival in Geneva for final talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz before the May 29-June 2 Moscow superpower summit. He said a planned accord to halve Soviet and U.S. strategic nuclear arsenals would be in the forefront of their talks. "I do not think we will be able to complete work on that agreement, but we will try to achieve substantive progress and to consolidate this accord," he told reporters. Referring to the postponement of the Senate debate (see page 8) on ratifying the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty signed in Washington last December, he said he felt verification problems had "basically" been resolved. "I am aware that problems have arisen recently," Shevardnadze said. "The American side was asking certain questions and for some clarification. We answered those questions and we thought there were no problems." Let me say that I know almost all the American negotiators personally.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (left) Tuesday confers with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi (Petra photo)

The Arab summit to be held in Algiers.

In a departure statement Ibrahimi said to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, he also discussed with the King a number of questions of concern to the Arab Nation.

The extraordinary summit will discuss the Palestinian uprising, the situation in the occupied lands as well as the latest developments in the Arab World.

U.S. vetoes U.N. resolution condemning Israeli incursion

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States Tuesday vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning Israel's incursion of southern Lebanon and calling for its withdrawal from all occupied territories.

The vote was 14-1, despite negotiations to moderate the resolution in an effort to avert a U.S. veto. The United States frequently shields Israel, its ally, by exercising its veto power to kill resolutions critical of the Zionist state.

The vote came after a three-day debate requested by Lebanon, which protested the incursion. More than 20 speakers denounced the incursion as state

terrorism and a violation of Lebanese sovereignty.

It was the sixth Security Council meeting in six months, called to deplore Israel's harsh handling of the Palestinian uprising, the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, military actions in southern Lebanon and the assassination of Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) in Tunis, blamed on Israel.

This was the second time this year the United States had vetoed a council resolution condemning Israeli attacks against Lebanese territory.

Israel announced last Wednesday it had completed a 48-hour operation in southern Lebanon.

King congratulates Mitterrand

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to French President Francois Mitterrand congratulating him on his re-election for a second seven-year term. King Hussein expressed happiness and voiced confidence that close cooperation would continue between Jordan and France.

The King also expressed hope that efforts would continue towards bolstering bilateral relations and serving the causes of right and justice.

The King also wished Mitterrand continued good health and happiness and the French people further progress and prosperity.

to place him in line to become Mitterrand's successor as Socialist leader despite past quarrels.

Rocard's first problem will be how to govern without a working majority in parliament.

Peres, Soviets discuss Mideast peace conference

MADRID (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Tuesday held a working lunch with two Soviet observers during the Socialist International council meeting taking place in Madrid.

A source at the Hotel Bajas near Madrid's international airport where the council meeting is being held said Peres and several aides met privately with Aleksander Zotov and Aleksander Weber for several hours.

Although the nature of the discussions was not made public, Peres said Monday night upon arrival in Madrid from Budapest that the "position of the Soviet bloc is becoming more and more important" in Middle East peace efforts.

Israel does not have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union but maintains full ties with Romania and reestablished low-level relations with Hungary and Poland last September.

Peres, who is attending the Madrid meeting as a representative of the Israeli Labour Party, is scheduled to leave Wednesday for Washington where he is to discuss with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz the American official's plan for a Middle East peace settlement.

The Shultz plan calls for talks on "self-rule" for the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, to be negotiated under the auspices of an international peace conference.

Six months following the start of the "self-rule" talks, the sides would begin negotiating about the future of the occupied territories.

Peres and Palestinian observers Hanna Siniora and Fayed Abu Rahme were among those present at the discussion.

Peres told reporters afterwards there was "disagreement as well as hope" during the discussion of the resolution, which will be presented to the plenary which formally opens Wednesday.

Peres was to meet later Tuesday with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Siniora told reporters that the most important thing about the debate was that participants made an attempt to remove obstacles in the way of a settlement in the area but said he had raised "serious objections" to the committee for its failure to deal adequately with the situation in the occupied territories.

هذه ايامنا الحرة

The right place for the right investment

The following is the text of a paper presented by Khaldun A. Abuhassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, to a Jordanian-Japanese seminar on investment in Jordan. The seminar was held in Tokyo on April 20 during His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Japan.

Economic climate

THE Jordan economic system is essentially a free enterprise system. Within this system, the manufacturing industry is overwhelmingly in the hands of the private sector. However, the Jordan government, whether directly or through some agencies, such as the Social Security and Pension Funds, holds important equity positions in many of the larger industrial enterprises which inter alia, include phosphate and potash production.

Business practices in Jordan are characterised by Western orientations and infrastructure is very extensively developed. Jordan's geographic location in the region makes it an extremely attractive centre for regional industrial and other business operations, as well as for foreign investment.

The economic climate is a mixture of political stability, geographical location, economic growth, hospitable environment, skilled manpower — all coupled with generous incentives, and availability of well-equipped space in the industrial estates and the free zones, which all make the country a justifiable and good choice for industrial operations.

The close proximity to the oil-producing Arab countries and their dynamic markets add to the prospects of successful joint business cooperation, including activities in exports, industrial and financial services.

Forecasts for the future of the economy are reassuring. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who symbolises the guiding force behind Jordan's economic and social development plans, attaches great importance to the resourceful merits and abilities of Jordan to play an active economic role not only in the development and modernisation of Jordan per se but also of the region as a whole.

Jordan, in His Royal Highness's confirmed views, possesses the ability to evolve and pursue regional business enterprises, and promote complementary economic projects within the region, and provide an advanced technological and maintenance services, and indeed, act as a dependable base for the area. Jordan's free economic system, modern infrastructure and skilled and disciplined workforce well sustain this foresight for the growth of regional trade and complementaries.

Among His Royal Highness's foresight projects is the development of the naturally homogeneous geographic area of the Red Sea extending regionally between the South of Jordan, parts of Egyptian Sinai and the northern parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is conceived as a region rich in physical deposits and potential economic prospects. Much of the future of regional economic development can be geared to developing this geographic region. However, and

in all aspects, friendly developed countries, such as the highly developed country of Japan can play a vital role in supporting these and other projects for mutual benefit and continuing economic cooperation.

Laws governing industry in Jordan

Business activities in Jordan are governed by four basic laws: namely the Commercial Code, the Companies Law, the Labour Law, and the Encouragement of Investment Law.

Regarding foreign investment, the most significant of these laws is the Encouragement of Investment Law number (6) of the year 1984.

This law accords equal treatment to national and foreign capital, and commits the Jordan government to guarantee continuity of enforcement without any deduction or annulment of any exemptions or facilities, irrespective of the provisions of any other law in force. In addition, capital and dividends of earnings are transferable abroad, without any restrictions in the foreign exchange of choice beyond the prior approval of the Central Bank.

Briefly, the law divides the Kingdom for the purpose of designating incentives into three zones: "A," "B," and "C" with the lesser developed zones accorded longer and more generous exemptions from income tax and customs duty on imported fixed assets. By way of practical example it is estimated that a total capital investment of about U.S. \$90 million through a total of some 280 projects benefit from the law.

In industry and mining, exemption from Income and Social Welfare Taxes extends in full to six successive years and 60 per cent during the next two years in zone "A," i.e. the environs of Amman. In zone "B" exemption is 10 years, and in zone "C" it is 15 years. In all zones, the period of exemption is extended by two more years if the project is owned by a public shareholding company.

The manufacturing sector is overwhelmingly private. It receives consistent backing, credit facilities, through Jordan Development Bank, and export encouragement through an exemption from tax of part of the export earnings.

Generally speaking, the manufacturing sector, covering 13 sub-sectors, includes some 9,600 establishments. It is composed of four categories according to type of activity:

- a) commodity trade establishments;
- b) auxiliary and service establishments;
- c) vocational trades;
- d) handicrafts and cottage industries.

The sub-sectors are as follows:

- leather products;
- therapeutic products;
- plastic and rubber;
- chemical products;
- cosmetics and perfumes;
- engineering industries (electric and metal);
- furniture, kitchen cabinets and doors (wood and metal);
- construction industries;
- printing, paper and stationery;
- supply industries;
- woven industries;
- packing and packaging;
- agricultural industries.

The overall industrial output production (base 1979=100) rose from 119.5 in 1980 to 205.9 at the end of 1987. For example, phosphate production increased from 3.9 million tons in 1980 to 6.84 million tons in 1987. Cement from 932,700 tons to 2,371,600, generated energy from 1,175 million kwh to 3,122 million kwh, yarns from 762 tons to 2,179, potash from zero to 1,203,000 tons, construction bars from 86,200 tons to 217,000, pipes from 11,800 tons to 217,000, petroleum products from 1,760,000 tons to 2,404,000, cardboard from 15,400 tons to 20,500, fertilisers from zero to 604,000 tons, etc. Many of the larger enterprises have foreign partners providing equity or know-how, or licence or all. By way of example:

— An American-Jordanian joint venture manufactures boots and other footwear.

— A Jordanian-Danish company manufactures wooden doors, kitchens and others.

— A Jordanian-British joint venture manufactures Alladin Stoves.

— A Jordanian-British joint venture manufactures soap, soap detergents and paints.

— A Jordanian-American joint venture manufactures paints.

— A Jordanian-Swedish joint venture manufactures matches.

— A Jordanian-French joint venture manufactures pipes.

— A Danish company bottles milk and syrups.

— A Dutch-Jordanian joint venture produces beer.

Manufactured goods

Manufactured goods include: Woolen piece goods, cigarettes, textiles, wearing apparel, household appliances, pharmaceutical and veterinary drugs, soaps, plastics, leather goods and shoes, phosphate, potash, wooden doors, furniture, paints, construction steel rods, matches, cardboard, alcoholic beverages, cosmetics, gypsum, cement — white and portland — plastic pipes, canned foods, baby nappies, tissue paper, confectionery, and others.

Permanent exhibition

The Amman Chamber of Industry maintains at its building a permanent exhibition of domestic manufactures. Jordan organises

or participates in exhibitions arranged in Arab and other countries.

Standard specifications

The Ministry of Industry and Trade promulgates standard specifications for almost all local manufacturers and quality control tests. Imports of goods not conforming to these standards are prohibited. Industrial laboratories and consultancy services are maintained by the Royal Scientific Society in Amman.

Industrial estates and free zones

An industrial estate, in Sahab, some 15 kilometres to the south of Amman, and another under construction in Irbid, some 160 kilometres north of Amman, provide standing factory buildings to facilitate industrial operations and stimulate investment. Some 100 enterprises are already operating inside the Sahab Industrial Estate. A standing rule of the estate accords each industrial enterprise a two-year exemption from income and social welfare taxes.

There are three operating free zones in Jordan: One at Aqaba, the seaport of Jordan, another at Zerka, some 40 kilometres to the east of Amman, and a third, a Jordanian-Syrian joint venture in the north astride the Jordanian-

Syrian frontiers. The free zones encourage investment by allowing tax exemptions on materials and income and social welfare taxes for 12 years.

Exports

The key to industrial production will always be the need to manufacture import substitutes and exports. Although Jordanian businessmen are well known for their active and experienced import trade, they have yet to muster the export business. Consistent and energetic efforts are made by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman Chamber of Industry to promote exports even through a counter trade system.

Exports are composed of phosphate, potash, manufactured goods and fresh vegetables and fruits. They totalled JD 226 million in 1986, compared to JD 120 million in 1980. Imports in 1986 amounted to JD 850 million as against JD 715 million in 1980.

Bright prospects for exportation are based on the potential to export to other Arab markets through wider participation by foreign firms that can contribute to technology and marketing and management expertise.

Establishing joint venture

Joint venture and licensing opportunities in Jordan are sustained by a favourable investment climate, and a growing domestic

and export market. The current five-year plan 1986-1990 provides a wealth of studied indications as to investment opportunities.

The economic history of Jordan and economic facts and figures demonstrate consistent progress, and prospects of development and expansion. The facts and figures attest to Jordan's credibility and healthy economic growth. They provide clear indicators that prospective investors are coming to an organised and progressive country, where people are eager to work and cooperate.

Meanwhile, one should not forget that Jordan is a focal point of business, education, tourism, travel, and communications in the Middle East, but the question however, is how to locate a project. The Ministry of National Planning, the Amman Chamber of Industry and business entrepreneurs afford a rich source of information and advice. Face to face contact with businessmen and interpersonal approaches between local industrialists and the foreigners lead to understanding the aspects and prospects of a joint venture. These are standard formulas for selecting and entering on a project, as everything depends on the wish and will to enter into business with Jordan.

Those who have had the will to do so, have been more than rewarded. No method of research can compensate for, or compare with a personal visit to Jordan and contact with interested parties. One can combine a tourism oriented trip with a business fact-finding visit. The key advice and gateway is come and see; meet with a range of business colleagues; see their factories, and discuss prospective projects. Updated information can be obtained at source from ministries, departments, banks, chambers of commerce and industry, and others.

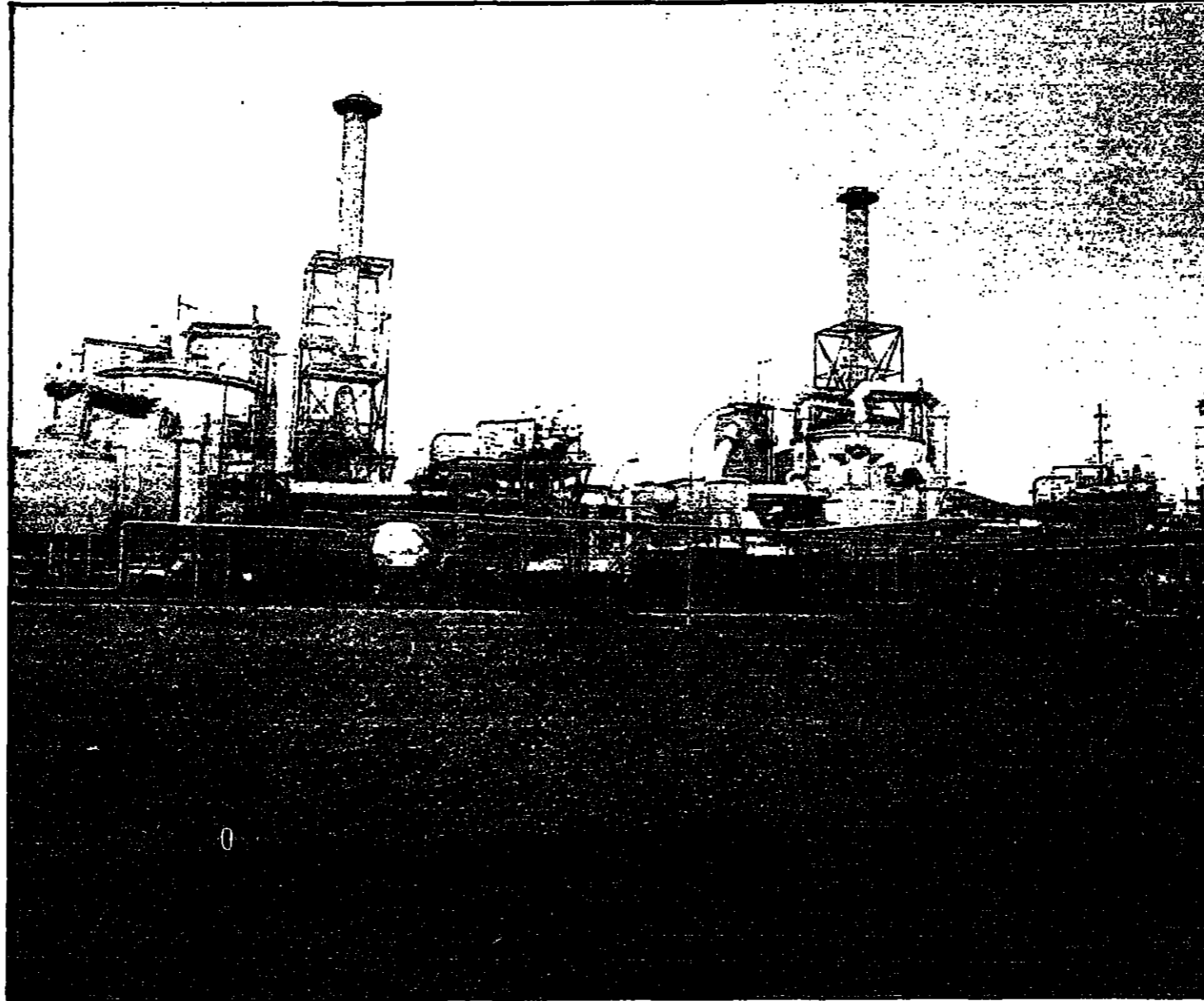
Case histories of joint ventures show that interested and capable people and bodies exist, and they are not difficult to locate.

Laws and regulations concerning economic affairs are stabilising

The following indicators are essentially helpful:

	1983	1984	1985	1986
G.N.P.				
(at market price)	1769	1854	1849	1917
Net National Prod.				
(at factor cost)	1484	1551	1519	1573
Agricultural Production				
(metric tons 1000)				
(1975=100)				
Plant Production, cereals, pulses, fruits etc.	951	832	1102	1176
Olives	472	1062	419	676
Industrial Index				
(1979=100)	151	181	185	188
Money & Banking				
(million JD)				
Money supply (M1)	869	878	848	897
Commercial Bank Deposits	1397	1603	1747	1946
Commercial Bank Credit Outstanding (MJD)	1031	1184	1274	1395
Imports (million dinars)	1013	1071	1074	850
Exports (million dinars)	160	261	255	226

Note: (Source — Central Bank Bulletin Jan. 1988.



Phosphate acid plant, DAP plant and sulphuric acid plant at the JORDAN FERTILISER INDUSTRY CO (JFI) at Aqaba commissioned in 1982.

TV & RADIO	WHAT'S GOING ON	FOR THE TRAVELLER	USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME ONE 14:00 Koran 14:10 Programme review 14:15 Cartoons 14:25 Children's series 15:10 Religious programme 15:40 Thousand and One Nights 16:05 Arabic play 16:40 Cooking programme 17:00 Religious programme 17:30 Health programme 18:00 Arabic series 18:35 Koranic contest 19:00 Religious programme 19:35 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:35 Puzzles from all over the world 22:00 Historical series 23:00 News summary in Arabic 23:10 Arabic series PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Les Miserables, eps. 1 19:00 News in French 19:15 Aujourd'hui En Jordanie 19:30 News in Hebrew 19:45 Sports Magazine 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 21:00 Hooperman (comedy series) 21:30 Twilight Zone 22:00 News in English 22:30 Ford RADIO JORDAN 853 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 860 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-19 7:00 Light Music 7:30 Newsdesk 8:00 Morning Show 8:30 News Summary 9:00 Morning Show Cont. 11:00 30 Minute Theatre 11:30 Songs from Movies 12:00 News Summary 12:05 Readings 12:30 Pop Session 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instrumentals 14:30 The Young Sound 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News in Summary 16:05 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites 17:00 Jordan Weekly 17:30 Pop Session	TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building. * Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabbal Amman, 3rd Circle. * School exhibition, at Sakina Bint Al Hussein School, Jabbal Amman. * Painting exhibition by the Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre. * Festival of Islamic Heritage and Books at the Roman Theatre, Amman. * Islamic book exhibition at Abdul Rahman Ibn Awf Mosque at Sweileh. * Arabic Calligraphy exhibition, by Abdul Rahim Al Tawil and Abdullah Al Shamsheh, at the Islamic Cultural Centre, University of Jordan. VIDEO FOR CHILDREN * "Filming of Famous Children's Story" by Astrid Lindgren at 4:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267 American Centre .. 64371 British Council .. 6361478 French Cultural Centre .. 637009 Goethe Institute .. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre .. 634049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 634777 Haya Arts Centre .. 665195 Hussein Youth City .. 6671816 Y.W.C.A. .. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251 Amman Municipal Library .. 6371111 Univ. of Jordan Library .. 643555 MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabbal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534. CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Lweideh, Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, Tel. 661757. Anglican Church (Anglican) Jabbal Lweideh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 678906. chaplain's residence, tel. 601359. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751. Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 634777. Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m., Rev. N. Smir, tel. 811295. Rabbinic Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-cum-Jewish English Service: Saturday at 6:30 p.m., tel. 82905, Rev. Veli. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815817, 821241.	QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53500-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 08:15 Agaba (RJ) 08:30 Cairo (RJ) 08:30 Damascus (RJ) 11:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 11:30 Doha, Kuwait (RJ) 17:40 Medina, Jeddah (RJ) 20:00 Kuwait (RJ) 23:55 Karachi (RJ) MONEY EXCHANGE Tuesday rates Local sell/buy rates in Jds Belgian franc 96.2 / 99.7 Dutch guilder 179.5 / 186.1 French franc 59.2 / 61.6 Italian lire 27 / 28 Japanese yen (for 100) 271.2 / 281.6 Swedish crown 57.5 / 59.6 Swiss franc 241.7 / 251.2 U.K. sterling pound 631.7 / 656.6 U.S. dollar 338.8 / 350.8 W. German mark 201.2 / 209.2 OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 08:10 Karachi (PK) 11:25 Kuwait (KU) 11:40 Damascus (AZ) 13:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (Y) 13:20 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) 13:45 Athens (RA) 16:00 London, Geneva (RJ) 19:10 Tunis (TU) 21:15 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH) 22:35 Paris, Damascus (AF) 22:55 Tripoli, Damascus (PK) DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 08:00 Agaba (RJ) 08:30 Vienna, New York (RJ) 12:30 Athens (RJ) 13:00 Geneva, London (RJ) 13:30 Cairo (RJ) 14:30 Riyadh (RJ) 20:35 Kuwait (RJ) 20:40 Doha (RJ) 20:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 21:00 Baghdad (RJ) 21:15 Jeddah (RJ) 21:45 Cairo (RJ) 21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 06:30 Cairo, London (BA)	EMERGENCIES Amman governorate 991228 Amman Civil Defence 98, 199 Civil Defence Irbid 771293, 773131 Civil Defence Quseibeh 770733 Civil Defence Deir Alla 57306 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 630341 Blood Bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622390-3 Police 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 8963901 Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 7711258 Queen Alia Int'l. Airport (08)533060 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Mousa Bashir 615487 Dr. Joseph Imseil 770560 Dr. Ashim Abu Arkoub 893122 Dr. Dawoud Al Sambour 778546 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferid pharmacy 778334 Al Asana pharmacy 637055 Nairook pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 TAXIS: Al Jolich taxi 776061 Al Qasi (Abu Joudah) taxi 743806 Wisam taxi 776271 Ra'ad taxi 776533 Rawda taxi 741572 Umayya taxi 775780 Musab taxi 893092 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642281/6 Akleh Maternity, J. Amn. 642412/2 Jabbal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Musasher Hospital 6672279 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7 Al-Ahl, Abdali 664164/6 Al-Muhajren 771013 Al-Bastiri, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6 Army, Marka 891611/5 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/20 Amal Hospital 674133 GENERAL Jordan Television 77311/19 Radio Jordan 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11
MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in Jds per kg. Apple (French) 400 / 360 Apple (green) 450 / 400 Apple (Lebanese) 300 / 250 Onion (dry) 160 / 100 Onions (local) 90 / 60 Parsley 80 / 60 Peas 800 / 600 Peas (broad) 140 / 100 Beans 130 / 100 Beans (broad) 130 / 100 Cabbage 130 / 100 Carrot 150 / 120 Cauliflower 220 / 180 Cherry (green) 850 / 600 Cucumbers 200 / 150 Dates (2 kgs) 600 / 500 Eggplant (large) 100 / 60 Eggplant (small) 140 / 100 Garlic (green) 160 / 120 Lemon 300 / 240 Mallow 240 / 180 Marrow 170 / 120 Onion (green) 160 / 100 Onion (dry) 90 / 60 Oranges (local) 260 / 220 Parsley 80 / 60 Peas 800 / 600 Peas (broad) 140 / 100 Pepper (hot) 220 / 180 Pepper (sweet) 180 / 140 Potato 140 / 100 Radish 140 / 100 Strawberry 1300 / 800 Tomatoes 100 / 60 Vase leaves 400 / 300 Watermelon 110 / 80 Sweetmelon 150 / 100			

Hindawi approves loans for teachers

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi has approved loans for teachers employed by the Ministry of Education schools.

These teachers who were appointed in January this year have not yet received their pay pending the completion of procedures that normally take several months to finalise.

The Ministry of Education's Building and Projects Department has meanwhile announced a tender for building housing units for teachers in Shobak, Mubamadhih, Tazan, Mreigheh, Basta and Rajef, all in the Ma'an governorate.

The projects will cost JD

53,000 according to a ministry official who said the units will be ready for occupancy by the beginning of the coming scholastic year.

These units he said, will accommodate some 70 teachers altogether.

The same department announced also that work on a total of 72 schools will be completed this summer, and will open for students in September.

These schools, which are in different parts of the Kingdom, are part of the ministry's comprehensive plans to dispose of rented buildings now serving as schools and eliminate the two-shift school system in the Kingdom.

Jordanian expatriates open centre in Dallas

DALLAS (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordanian community in the American state of Texas has opened a centre at Dallas to look after the interests of the community members and to bolster bridges between them and the motherland.

The head of the community, Ibrahim Ayed, and the centre's Administrative Director Mahmoud Abul Ghanam voiced their appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein's support and encouragement for their community during an inaugural ceremony here.

The project was discussed in Amman last February by community representatives and Minister of Social Development Rashid Ureikat, who voiced Jordan's total support for the project.

The Ministry of Social Development's Expatriates Department Director Azmi Muhtaseb

described the new centre as another step for enhancing Jordanian expatriates links with their country, and said that other similar centres could now be opened throughout the United States.

Two other centres are scheduled to be opened in New Jersey and Chicago just before the convening of the fourth Jordanian Expatriates Conference in Amman in July, Muhtaseb said.

Muhtaseb said earlier that a special committee has been formed to prepare the ground for the coming conference, which will discuss social, economic, housing and other issues of concern to the expatriates, and means for enhancing their ties with their country.

According to Muhtaseb this year's conference will focus attention on expatriates investments in Jordan.

AIDS carrier hospitalised

AMMAN (J.T.) — One of eight Jordanian carriers of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) discovered in Jordan last October has been admitted to hospital in Amman after it was found that he had fallen victim to the killer disease, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The paper said that the patient, whose name was not disclosed, was now under strict surveillance by doctors.

The victim had received blood transfusion while undergoing a surgical operation abroad, according to the paper quoting Health Ministry sources.

The Health Ministry last October announced the discovery of 12 cases of AIDS in Jordan, eight of whom were Jordanians, and in January 1988 the ministry reported the death of one of the victims who had been undergoing medical treatment in Amman.

His death raised to three the total number of AIDS victims to die in Jordan over the past year.

The ministry last month announced that a national committee charged with taking measures for combating AIDS reviewed measures for spreading information on the killer disease to the public.

The committee comprises rep-

representatives of the Health Ministry and the Ministries of Education, Interior, Information, Higher Education and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs as well as the Public Security Department, the Bar Association, the Jordan Press Association, the General Union of Voluntary Societies and General Union of Federation of Jordanian Women.

Earlier last month, the Arab Health Ministers' Council, which convened in Amman, was told that AIDS which appeared in the Arab World recently was introduced from outside the region and there was not a single case originating in any Arab country.

The delegates emphasised the need for a pan-Arab information network on blood transfusion, and called for more efforts to be made in the field of spreading awareness among the public concerning protection against the disease.

Head of the Health Ministry's Communicable Disease Department told the Jordan Times in an interview last January that there was special concern over the potential exposure to the virus by approximately 70,000 Jordanian students now living abroad, and nearly 350,000 Jordanian expatriates living in the region could also be exposed to AIDS.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

HINDAWI MEETS ENVOYS: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi met separately in his office Tuesday with Tunisian, Indonesian, Austrian and Japanese ambassadors to Jordan. They discussed Jordan's cooperation with their countries in educational fields; according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The agency said that Hindawi later met with Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan to discuss bilateral relations.

MESSAGE FROM UAE: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi Tuesday received a message from United Arab Emirates Education Minister Ahmad Al Tayar, who stressed his country's interest in bolstering and further supporting bilateral cooperation between ministries of education in both countries. Tayar also lauded the performance and dedication of Jordanians working in the Emirates.

TAE KWON DOO: Public Security Director Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali Tuesday presented certificates to police trainees, who have completed a tae kwon doo training course, and gave awards and cups to the excellent students. The course was held at the Special Police Forces Command. The graduation celebration was attended by Majali's aides for administration, operations and planning and Commander of the Badia (desert) Police, in addition to a number of Public Security Department heads and Special Police Forces officers.

NEW NBC REPORTER: The American television network NBC has named Michel B. Silver as its correspondent in Jordan, instead of Rick Davis.

HADIDI HONOURED: The Austrian Schallaburg County Government has awarded the Department of Antiquities Director General Adnan Hadidi the order of merit, in appreciation of his distinguished academic contributions to archaeological studies in Jordan and abroad.

BADRAN IN BAGHDAD: Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Tuesday met in Baghdad with Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Ibrahim Badran and discussed with him means of enhancing bilateral relations in the field of oil.

BELGIAN TOURISTS: A 177-member tourist group from Belgium arrived here Monday on a visit to Jordan and were welcomed by Ministry of Tourism officials and tourist and travel agents who organised the trip. Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni delegated his assistant Rafiq Lahham to greet the visitors and to present them with token gifts.

MURDERER TO HANG: A 47-year-old murderer has been sentenced to death by hanging by the criminal court for killing a 42-year-old man identified by the Al Dustour Arabic daily as A.M.A. The murder, it said, took place in Irbid in 1986 and the murderer, identified only as M.S.F. committed the crime.



PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS GHQ: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday paid two separate visits, one to the Armed Forces Headquarters, where he met for a while

with Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, and to the Public Security Department where he was briefed by its director Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali on the PSD plans and achievements, and inspected progress of work.

Balloons — A new way for sightseeing in Jordan

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — How does an exotic adventure in Jordan sound to you? Soon you can fly high over the ancient mountains of Wadi Rum and other parts of the Kingdom and look at a natural beauty from above... from a hot air balloon.

The person behind this daring voyage is Richard Branson, the Englishman who was the first man to cross the Atlantic in a hot air balloon — the Virgin Atlantic Flyer — last year.

Branson, who is in Amman for a few days on an invitation from Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, is here with two of his balloons, one of which is the size and shape of a Jumbo 747.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Branson said that he is here not only to teach King Hussein how to fly a balloon, but also to search for areas in the country where tourists would be flown over sites in Jordan.

"When I met Their Majesties in Britain, they invited me and my two balloons with me here to see the possibility of setting up exotic holidays to encourage tourism in Jordan," Branson told the Jordan Times.

He added that in the next few days he will try to find which areas in Jordan would be most suitable for flying and to see if the terrain is right. "Flying a balloon should only take place early in the morning or in the evening, and it can't be too windy."

Branson, 37, flew 30,000 feet over the Atlantic Ocean taking off from the state of Maine in the U.S., and landing in the sea just off Ireland, breaking the fastest record.

The Virgin Atlantic Flyer is 30 times bigger than any other balloon built and a Jumbo jet could fit inside.

"We expected to take five days to cross 6,480 kilometres of the ocean. But the winds were so strong, we had to fly the jet stream. The first time anyone has ever ridden the jet stream (30,000 feet high). Once we were there, we went at an incredible speed of 280 kilometres per hour, so we got to the other side in only 28

hours," recalled Branson, who is in the Middle East for the first time.

Faster than 1st plane

He said the fastest any balloon has ever flown was (50 kilometres per hour), and that he and his team made it faster than the first plane that ever crossed the Atlantic.

"Once we got to Ireland, the weather turned nasty, it was very windy and we tried landing there. But once we were thrown to the ground, we shot right up again. My co-pilot and I decided it was safer to land in the sea," explained Branson.

The landing was a dangerous one. They hurtled across the water, and had to parachute down. Fortunately, there were helicopters that came to their rescue, ending their daring voyage.

Two years earlier, Branson also tried to break the record in crossing the Atlantic by boat, but his boat sank just before he reached his destination. "But we went the year after that and did get the record in our Virgin Atlantic Challenger," he added.

These adventures are merely a hobby for the blond Branson. This businessman, is actually a self-made multi-millionaire, who heads the Virgin Group Company. It is one of the largest entertainment conglomerates in Britain, which includes record productions, video music, books and films. Furthermore, there are Virgin offices in 18 countries.

Music stars like Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel of the rock group Genesis record their music at Virgin Recording Studios. George Orwell's 1984, which was Richard Burton's last film, was also produced by the Virgin Group.

Branson, who is soft-spoken and modest, also owns and chairs the British Virgin Atlantic Airlines, the second largest in Britain.

He bought his first Jumbo jet five years ago to fly from London to New York. Now the airline network flies to the U.S., Europe and the Far East.

According to Branson, it is run differently from regular airlines. "It's actually run like a private club, with quality lounges, bars

and sleepers. We also allow entertainers and stars to travel free of charge as long as they entertain the passengers. We also try to be the cheapest airline. We call it 'the fully-filled low-cost airline'." Branson said.

His ambitions does not seem to stop here. He recently received a licence from the British government to open three television channels with a powerful satellite transmission.

One will be a 24-hour film channel, another a 24-hour news and sports channel, and the third will be a 24-hour general entertainment channel.

Branson dropped out of school when he was only 15, and started working, as he put it, "from a telephone box."

He started a young people's magazine, "Student," which was completely financed by advertisements he sold for his magazine. He then began to sell records cheaply at retail prices, and rose to prominence in the entertainment business. The first album he recorded was music by Mike Oldfield.

Branson is here to start something new and exciting in Jordan, a country that needs new and daring activities in which everyone can participate and enjoy the country from a different angle, a high angle.

Queen Noor opens vocational school in Mafrag

60 girls complete vocational training

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday attended the graduation of 60 girls, who have successfully completed training courses on sewing, typing, trico and adult education, organised by the women's federation branch in Mafrag.

At the end of the graduation, which was held at Mafrag Municipality's assembly hall, Queen Noor presented graduates with their certificates.

Earlier Tuesday Queen Noor opened Iman Bint Al Hussein Vocational School for girls, which

cost JD 250,000.

The school has 35 classrooms, and can accommodate 1,400 students in the academic, commercial, nursing branches of education, in addition to sewing and typing.

The Queen also opened Maf-

raq governorate schools exhibition, which was held at Mafrag girls secondary school.

The exhibition includes handicrafts, traditional clothes, plates, audio-visual materials, school laboratory equipment and embroideries.

Also Tuesday Queen Noor inaugurated a folklore exhibition, organised by the women's federation.

Queen Noor was accompanied on her visit by Mafrag governor and senior government officials.

Zarqa police arrest gang of robbers

ZARQA (J.T.) — Police in Zarqa have apprehended a three-member gang of robbers who had carried out an attempted robbery at a bank in Russeifa and had stolen electrical appliances, television and video sets, jewellery and food supplies from homes and stores in Zarqa and Amman areas.

A report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the three thieves were apprehended by the police soon after their attempt to rob the bank last month.

It said a citizen reported that he had seen a man lying in the main Amman-Zarqa road. But by the time the police arrived the man had vanished leaving behind spots of blood both in the street and in the dividing island, the report said.

Early next day a man identified only as N.Y.M.A. was admitted to the government hospital in Zarqa, suffering from a deep wound in his right hand which he claimed to have been caused by some of the tools in a blacksmith's shop, according to the paper.

The hospital as a normal procedure reported the matter to the police, who investigated the case since the man was found to have a previous criminal record.

Later, upon searching his home, the police found some stolen items and an album with photos of his friends, one of whom had returned the blacksmith's tools to their owner who happened to be the wounded man's brother-in-law and owns a blacksmith workshop, the report noted.

It said that the police's doubts

deepened because these friends also had criminal records, and because it was only on the previous night that the attempted robbery had taken place.

According to the report, the other friends appearing in the photographs were rounded up for questioning whereupon they admitted to have attempted to rob the bank and related details of this attempt to the police.

The police also found evidence by matching traces of paint found on the blacksmith's tools with that of the bank's safe which the robbers had tried to open, fortunately without success, the report pointed out.

Other traces were also found on glasses and the refrigerator in the bank's kitchenette which matched the fingerprints of the three robbers and provided sufficient evidence for charging them with the robbery, according to the paper.

The paper reported details of the attempted robbery and also the various items which the thieves had stolen from different homes and quoted the Director of the Police Department in Zarqa Colonel Abdul Hamid Irsheid as

saying that all items were returned to their original owners except for the food supplies which had since been consumed.

Irsheid briefed the newspaper reporter on the manner in which the attempted robbery happened and said that the three thieves had broken into the bank from the roof after removing bricks fencing off the building's ventilators.

The three then moved into the rooms and found the safe which failed to open, and in the process the first thief with the tools suffered serious injury and fainted while attempting to break open the safe, Irsheid said.

He said the three robbers then gave up the attempt and left the bank after staying inside for 25 hours benefiting from the Friday weekly holiday.

Irsheid said that the attempted robbery took place Thursday night March 31 and the robbers left the scene of their crime late Friday, April 1.

He paid tribute to the responsible citizen who had reported the man lying on the side of the road because it was due to that report, he said, that the police were able to discover the robbers and put an end to their criminal actions.

Fuel truck overturns

AMMAN (J.T.) — A fuel tanker truck, loaded with some 45,000 litres of gasoline, overturned and landed on its side near the Seventh Circle on Jabal Amman Monday, injuring the driver but causing no other casualties.

A report in Al Dustour Arabic daily said the driver had lost

control over the vehicle which was heading towards a local petrol station to deliver the fuel after it had hit the dividing island.

The truck overturned sustaining damages and spilling out no less than 60 per cent of its total load of fuel, according to the report.

AMMAN-LONDON THE PARIS CONNECTION.

Going to London? On a tight schedule? Fly Air France and you can get from Amman to the heart of London via Paris in less than 7 hours. Air France's connections to London City Airport, a mere 15-minute taxi ride from the City, are of particular interest to businessmen with no time to waste. For example, if you take Air France's Airbus from Amman, the Tuesday flight leaves at 1.30 am, stops at Charles de Gaulle Express Terminal 2 and arrives at London City Airport at 8.10 am. The Thursday and Sunday flights leave Amman at 10 am and arrive at 6.10 pm. If your schedule demands flexibility, it's reassuring to know that Air France offers 250 weekly flights between Paris and London. And that Air France is the only airline to have flights from Paris to all four



London airports. To minimize your travel time and maximise your travel possibilities, plan your next trip to London via Paris with Air France.

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Jordan Times

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Good signs

WE see several encouraging signs that the private sector in Jordan has started to play a more dynamic and appropriate role in the economic growth of the country, while the government seems to be moving towards a strategy characterised by a more logical balance between the private and the public sectors. The investment mission to Japan is an example of the kind of public/private sector cooperation which we think is appropriate for Jordan. The government took the lead in organising the mission to Japan, while the private sector took the hint and sent a delegation of serious businessmen and women who recognised the vast potential for doing business with Japan. It is noteworthy that not only did some private companies go to Japan, but also that some private sector business associations, such as the Chamber of Industry, participated in the effort. We see the same thing happening with the Chamber of Industry and the Chamber of Commerce's involvement in efforts to resolve the problem that has arisen over government-backed exports to Iraq. A third case in point is the investment mission that will travel to the United States later this month, in which the private sector figures very prominently.

The whole effort on privatisation of public corporations is also indicative of a healthy trend, which our country is well placed to explore. The national airline, the bus company and the telecommunications corporation are the first three entities being considered for privatisation, though there are scores of others that make good candidates.

The practical fact of the matter is that the government does not have the financial or human resources, or the institutional compulsion, or the managerial depth, to keep assuming responsibility for routine tasks that are clearly more efficiently assumed by the private sector. It is the right moment, in a regional and domestic context of slower economic growth and more scarce financial resources, to make the transition from a state of overt and deep government control of many aspects of the economy to a state of more private sector involvement within a regulatory and quality control framework in government hands. The pattern that has worked well in Jordan has always been the government providing the legal and investment environment in which the private sector can do its work, or the government taking the lead in launching large projects which are beyond the financial reach of the private sector alone. That such a pattern is being reassessed, with the private sector playing its appropriate role, strikes us as a good thing, for which both the government and the private sector should be commended.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Exemplary achievements

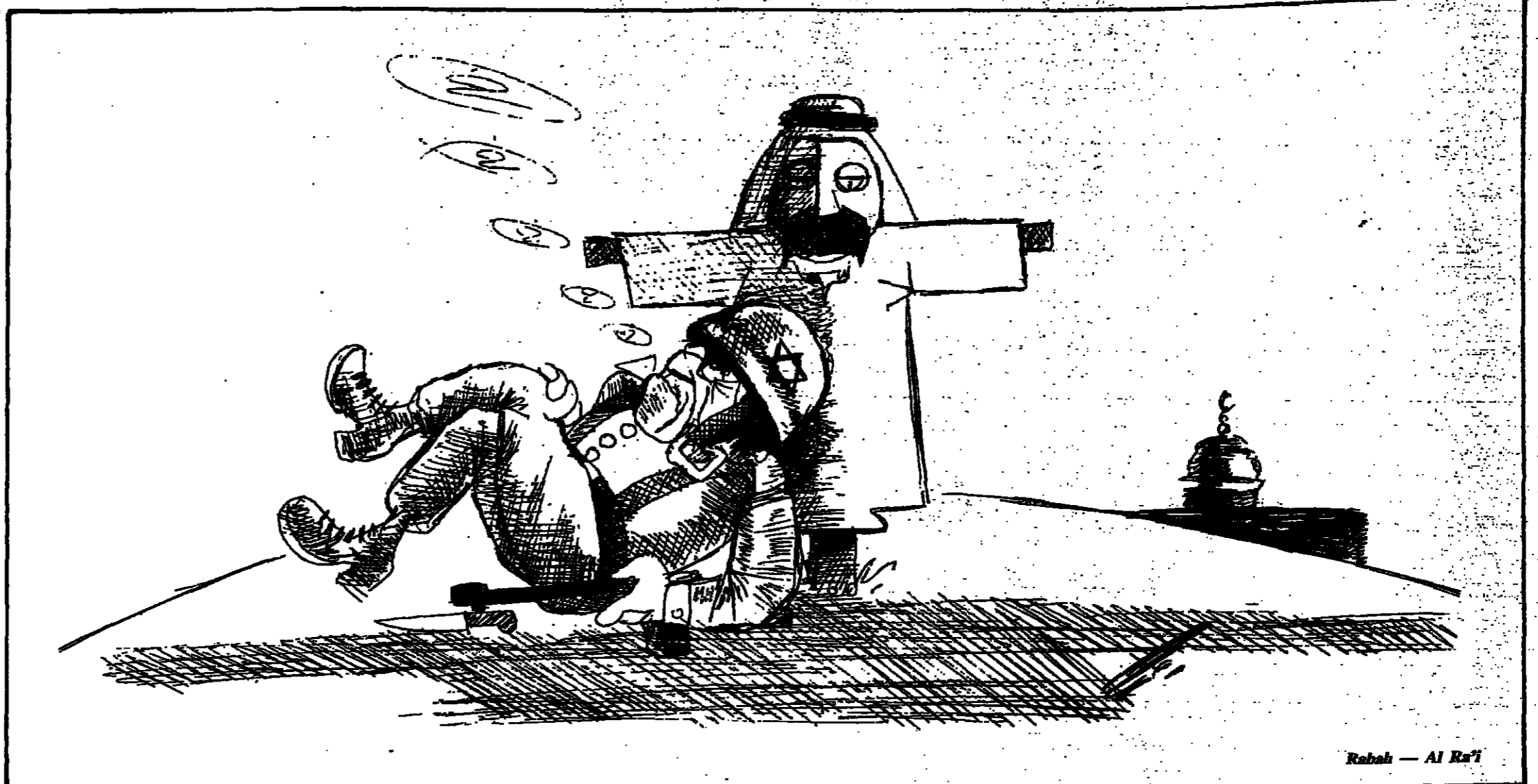
JORDAN has been able in four decades to make successful achievements considered exemplary for other countries with similar resources and conditions, despite its involvement in a national problem and its responsibilities in guarding the longest confrontation lines with the Israeli enemy. This was reaffirmed by King Hussein at an iftar banquet in Karak on Sunday. The King reminded his audience of the Kingdom's endeavours over the past years and the challenges it had been able to overcome in the course of struggle to achieve better life for its citizens. In contrast, the Israeli enemy had been flooded with all forms of economic and financial assistance from many sources throughout the past 40 years. But Jordan's achievements came as a result of the endeavours of its own people and the excellent exploitation of the few and limited available resources under its disposal. More importantly, the citizens of this country are more determined than ever before to pursue the work and the struggle for a better and more prosperous future and to overcome future challenges. A quick study of the Jordanian achievements gives cause for pride for every one in this country and stands out as an ideal accomplishment for other Arab countries. Nothing could have been achieved without the strong sense of national belonging and without the translation of the principles and the aims of the Great Arab Revolt into real action. This sense of belonging and this loyalty will no doubt serve as the driving force behind any other achievements in the future.

Al Dustour: Same destiny, future

KING Hussein reviewed with the citizens of Karak on Sunday the struggle and the achievements of our grandfathers and the founders of the Kingdom. He spoke about the sacrifices which these pioneers offered in defence of the Palestinian people's rights. The monarch reminded his countrymen of the efforts of the Jordanian Armed Forces, who in true commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, continue to shield the nation from external danger. These Armed Forces he said, guard the longest confrontation lines with the Israeli enemy and are ready to defend the homeland. Jordan continues to back the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and extend all forms of assistance to them in line with these commitments and as a national duty. Jordan feels that it shares the same destiny and the same future with the Palestinian brothers and with the Iraqi people and all the Arabs. For this reason this country has been firm in its stand in support of the Iraqi people in the face of the Iranian aggression over the past eight years. The King told his audience that he preferred death to betraying the trust which he inherited from his grandfathers and the founders of the Kingdom and he pledged to do all he can with the support of his people and his nation to re-establish justice and regain the usurped lands. But, as the King pointed out, nothing can be achieved without a unity of ranks and true determination to confront the challenges and the dangers.

Sawt Al Shaab: Impressive history

KING Hussein has been presenting facts about Jordan and its achievements over the past 40 years and saying that they came as a result of the people's endeavours and their determination to work for a better future. Whoever follows up the Kingdom's history and its developments over the past years will realise the wise directions of King Hussein whose keenness on providing means for development is obvious and who strives to serve his countrymen and the causes of the Arab Nation at large. Whoever follows the past events in the Arab World can realise the relentless endeavours of the leader of this country who strives to achieve justice, unity for the Arabs and freedom for all, in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.



Rabah — Al Ra'i

Punjab crackdowns spurs more Sikh separatist violence

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

CHANDIGARH, India — Three years ago the question of India losing the war against Sikh separatists was unthinkable. Now it is asked continuously in Punjab by critics who say Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's policies have played into the hands of the extremists.

The more paramilitary troops the 43-year-old leader throws against the separatists in the northern India state, the more killings take place.

Well over 800 people have died so far this year in the worst upsurge of violence since a handful of gunmen began their fight for a Sikh homeland called Khalistan in the early 1980s. Last year, some 1,230 were killed in the violence.

Parts of the prosperous farming state are now war zones with homes abandoned along the Pakistani border where the authorities have started to build a fence to prevent men and arms crossing into India.

"A year of bullet for bullet has done nothing but strengthen the extremists and deepen the sense of alienation of the Sikh community. Those demanding Khalistan or nothing have the upper hand among the militants, that was not so a year ago."

Armed militants have reoccupied the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the golden temple in Amritsar, from which the Indian army drove them with tanks in June 1984.

More than 70,000 police and paramilitary troops are now pitted against 300 to 400 extremists who operate mainly along the border. Thousands of Hindus have left their villages there this year for the safety of neighbouring Hindu-majority states.

Sikhs too have fled border areas to comparative safety in the towns. Many say they fear the police as much as the extremists.

Police have arrested thousands of young Sikhs on suspicion of having separatist links and Sikh leaders have publicly accused the police of killing Sikhs in custody. Sikh politicians say heavy-handed policing is driving youngsters into the extremists' arms and have pleaded with Gandhi to stop it.

The response from New Delhi has been to administer more of the same harsh medicine.

One year ago Gandhi dismissed Punjab's moderate Akali Dal Party state government for failing to stop the killings. He appointed Governor Siddhartha Shankar Ray to rule the state directly on behalf of Delhi.

Since then the number of killings has rocketed, prompting Gandhi to extend direct rule and arm himself with the power to declare an emergency in the state.

"Just because the situation is a little more serious it does not mean our policy isn't working," Ray said.

"In fact, it is because the policy is working that the situation has got worse," he said in an interview.

He said the extremists were desperately trying to create a rift between Hindus and the majority Sikhs in the state by stepping up the murder of innocent people.

That logic is lost on Sikh moderates like Balwant Singh, a minister in the dismissed government.

"This situation has been created by the wrong policies of the central government," he told Reuters.

"Since we were dismissed, extremist killings have gone up fivefold and they have obtained AK47 (rifles) and rocket launchers," he said.

Former police chief Julio Ribeiro's policy of matching the extremists' "bullet for bullet" had backfired, Balwant Singh said.

"Our policy was to bring the boys (gunmen) back into the mainstream," he said.

Ribeiro, who was made Ray's chief adviser last month after heading the Punjab police since March 1986, makes no excuses for the bullet-for-bullet approach.

"Is there any alternative to it? I don't see any country in the world having a different policy towards men who are killing innocent people," Ribeiro said in an interview.

"This is a separatist war and will last a long time," he said.

But Ribeiro no longer talks about breaking the back of the separatists by eliminating the hundred or so "hardcore terrorists," he said he was out to capture in 1986.

For every suspected guerrilla killed or captured, a new one seems to take his place.

Intelligence and police sources admit the extremists have little difficulty in finding recruits.

They say the four main extremist groups have become better organised and equipped receiving arms and training in Pakistan. Islamabad denies the charge.

The groups are not thought to have links with foreign terrorist organisations but they do receive money and support from militants in Britain, the United States and Canada, the sources said.

With these funds, and money from robbing banks, the extremists have acquired semi-automatic AK47s, which they used in massacres on buses and in crowded bazars, they said.

"This violence will go on for years... the government will not give in and the terrorists will not give in," Ribeiro said.

Akali Dal leaders and other Sikh politicians believe he is right, but for the wrong reasons.

"A year of bullet for bullet has done nothing but strengthen the extremists and deepen the sense of alienation of the Sikh community," Akali member of parliament and war hero General Jagjit Singh Aurora told Reuters.

"Those demanding Khalistan or nothing have the upper hand among the militants, that was not so a year ago."

Ethiopian boy soldiers among prisoners of Eritrean rebels

By Tom Lansner
Reuters

OROTA, Ethiopia — Abu Mikhael and Thebethe Sawra, both 14 years old, were playing football when they were taken to join the Ethiopian Army.

Now, after a short stint, they face an uncertain future as prisoners of war with the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

Abu and Thebethe are among at least 6,000 Ethiopian troops the EPLF says it captured in fighting around the Eritrean town of Afabet in mid-March. Another 10,000 prisoners of war have spent up to 10 years in EPLF hands because the Addis Ababa government refuses to recognise their existence.

Thebethe, barefoot but still in Ethiopian army uniform, said he was living with his unemployed parents in an Addis Ababa slum when a group of militiamen suddenly changed his life.

"It was on January 11. About 30 of us boys were playing football near my home at midday. Three revolutionary guards came up quietly and then they grabbed us. The others ran away but I was caught with two others," he said.

"I told them I was 14 but they didn't say anything. At first my family didn't know what happened to me. I wrote a letter to them from training, but I never got a letter back," he added.

Abu Mikhael said he was snatched from a football match near his home in the Anis district on the morning of January 12.

"After we started training they registered us and I told them my age, but they didn't care."

"They told us a few bandits wanted to sell Eritrea to the Arab countries. They said, 'we will defeat these people in a few days and then you can go back to your homes,'" he said.

The Ethiopian government has called for mass mobilisation against the EPLF and the Tigra People's Liberation Front in neighbouring Tigra province after the two rebel movements made rapid advances against government troops earlier this year.

The official minimum age for military conscription is 18 but at least 50 of the 1,500 prisoners at the Orotta camp in northwestern Eritrea said they were 16 or younger.

Several of the prisoners said their commanders, apparently to discourage desertions, told them the EPLF killed any soldiers who fell into their hands.

"Mohammed Omar, a 14-year-old from the southeastern province of Bale, told Reuters, 'We didn't know there were prisoners. They told us the rebels would torture and kill us. They told us it would be better to kill ourselves than be taken prisoner.'"

Lieutenant Colonel Afewerke

Wassie, the highest ranking officer captured in the latest fighting, said the Ethiopian authorities treated prisoners of war as deserters.

"They are cancelled from the army. They don't give their families anything. Officially I don't exist," he said in an interview at Sheeb on the Red Sea coast.

The EPLF's radio station broadcasts the names of prisoners so the colonel's family may know he is still alive, but the 40-year-old officer, a graduate of the Soviet Union's Frouze Military Academy, says he is not keen to be released.

"If the EPLF releases captured soldiers, some of them are taken to the front and they are shot as an example to the others," he said.

Colonel Afewerke said he was on a visit to Afabet from the Eritrean capital Asmara as chief of the party organisation in the 2nd revolutionary army — effectively the political commissar — when the EPLF overran the town.

The prisoners live in scattered camps in arid and stony canyons deep in the EPLF's base area around the town of Nacfa. They tend gardens, raise chickens, gather firewood and attend literacy and political education classes laid on by the EPLF.

Solomon Ghebriel, the EPLF administrator of camps holding more than 5,000 prisoners,

appealed for donations of food, medicines and educational materials to help the EPLF handle the increasing number of captives.

"Right now we are providing for them, but as the fighting continues, it may be beyond our capacity," he told Reuters.

"The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is sending the Ethiopian prisoners relief assistance worth one million dollars a year in the form of clothing, tools, sports equipment and household goods despite disagreements with the EPLF, ICRC delegate in Sudan Pierre Post said.

"They will not provide lists of names of prisoners and... they won't let us register the prisoners ourselves. This is the essential first step in helping them," he added.

The prisoners include three Soviet officers — two colonels and a lieutenant — but their future seems as uncertain as that of their former Ethiopian comrades-in-arms.

"We have a lot of homework to do before we decide how to deal with the three Soviet prisoners," EPLF Secretary General Issayas Afewerke told Reuters.

"This is not a job for the ICRC. If the ICRC is concerned about prisoners of war, it should first of all resolve the lot of the Ethiopian prisoners we have," he added.

Night worship in Ramadan

By Adil Salahi

THE special character which distinguishes the month of Ramadan from the rest of the year is derived from the type of actions we do during this month, whether they are obligatory or voluntary.

Fasting has much to do with the preparation of Muslims for the task assigned to them by Allah, namely, conveying the divine message of Islam to mankind.

Although fasting is the main thing which we do in Ramadan, it is only the obligatory part. There are other aspects of worship which we associate with Ramadan in one way or another and which contribute to its distinctive characteristics.

Every Muslim knows that emulating the Prophet in any action he did during the 23 years of his mission is strongly recommended. It goes without saying that some of these actions we must do, since they are Islamic duties. What is not obligatory and has been done by the Prophet constitutes a recommended practice which earns reward if done by any Muslim. When we look at what the Prophet did in Ramadan, we find that he was exceptionally charitable in this blessed month. In order to appreciate his generosity, we need to remember that the Prophet was the most generous of people at all times. He never hesitated to give away whatever he had, trusting always that Allah will give him more for his charity. In Ramadan, however, he was "more charitable than unrestrained wind."

Moreover, prayer which is the mainstay of Islamic worship, and indeed Islamic religion, receives even stronger emphasis in Ramadan. When you go anywhere in the Muslim world in Ramadan, you find that mosques witness some unusual activity in Ramadan. Worshippers gather for a late congregational prayer which is offered after Isha, the night prayer, and takes much longer than any of the five obligatory daily prayers. Nevertheless, this worship exercise is not obligatory. We do it, following the guidance of the Prophet. It is

the Muslim world in Ramadan, you find that mosques witness some unusual activity in Ramadan. Worshippers gather for a late congregational prayer which is offered after Isha, the night prayer, and takes much longer than any of the five obligatory daily prayers. Nevertheless, this worship exercise is not obligatory. We do it, following the guidance of the Prophet. It is

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authentically reported that he came out into the mosque one night in Ramadan and a group of his companions joined him in a congregational prayer. He did the same on the following two nights with the congregation increasing every night. On the fourth night, the mosque was overcrowded, but the Prophet did not come out. In the morning, when he came out for the obligatory dawn prayer, he said to his companions that he was aware of their presence. He simply did not want to come out because he feared that this worship might become obligatory to them. He wanted to keep it voluntary. However, the indication is clear that a congregational night worship in Ramadan is strongly recommended.

This understanding was put into practice by the second Caliph Umar Ibn Al Khattab. He came out one night in Ramadan to the mosque and found that there were many people praying individually or in small groups. He thought that it was far better if they joined together in one congregation led by an imam who recited the Koran well. He chose Ubayy Ibn Ka'ab who was known to be one of the best reciters of the Koran among the companions of the Prophet. This was how the taraweeh prayer started.

Prayers are a devotional practice which is aptly described as an action which breathes life into souls. This applies particularly to night prayers. At night, the worshipper feels himself much closer to Allah. Prayers help him purify himself and strengthen his resolve to fulfill all the duties Allah requires of him, especially in relation to the conveyance of the divine message to mankind.

It is noteworthy that such long and late night prayers were obligatory in the very early period of Islam. The Prophet and his few companions in Makkah were required to stay up nearly half the night every night in total devotion to Allah. After a couple of hours' sleep they would rise and offer their devotion. They continued to do so for a whole year. Later, the obligation was relaxed. The action itself remains strongly recommended. It does not require a far stretch of imagination to visualise the strong effects such night prayers have in educating the believers and building their characters. The self-discipline involved, the feeling of proximity to Allah they impart, the acceptance of His will as something supreme are all impor-

tant factors which help shape the character of the Islamic nation. Hence, night prayers were made obligatory in the formative period of the first Muslim generation. When we consider the remarkable achievements of that generation, we have to remember that it was a generation moulded by the Prophet himself, and that the fact that long hours were spent in worship every night was an essential element of the moulding of that generation.

The fact that the obligation was relaxed does not alter anything of the value of spending half of the night in honest worship. Indeed, Muslims have had to resort to this unique method to re-educate themselves in their faith and to rebuild their truly Islamic character every time that character was weakened by any particular set of circumstances. It remains today our invaluable training which acquires for us the habit of opting for the hard but right course in preference to the wrong one which may be easy, comfortable or even enjoyable.

There is no doubt that the month of Ramadan with its strong emphasis on night worship, in addition to the day worship of fasting, enables us to maintain our ideological character. It helps us hold on to the standard of truth and evaluate everything through that standard. Hence, when Muslims say that Ramadan is a month of endless blessings they speak from personal experience, because they see the effects of these blessings in their daily lives. It is only natural, therefore, that we always thank Allah for giving us the month of Ramadan and for making it what it is in reality for our own benefit. — Arab News

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OPEN DEFIANCE: Palestinian women defy Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip. Arbitrary measures, including summary detentions, beatings and brutal treatment, imposed by the Israeli

army have only inflamed the Palestinian national spirit and escalated the Palestinian uprising which entered the sixth month this week.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Riyadh studies Tehran's request

RIYADH (AP) — The Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry is studying a request by Iran that Turkey be allowed to look after Iranian interests in the kingdom, Arab diplomatic sources said Tuesday. Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Iran last week, when the Riyadh government accused Tehran of terrorism and intimidation against the kingdom and gunboat attacks on Saudi commercial shipping in the Gulf sea lanes. Turkey has been looking after Iranian interests in Iraq, while doing the same for Iraq in Iran. The diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Iran had requested that Turkey represent Iranian interests in Saudi Arabia. Riyadh's response to the Iranian request is expected to be favourable, mainly in view of the cordial relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey, diplomatic sources said.

Kuwait seizes 2,000 cases of whisky

KUWAIT (R) — Police have arrested a gang trying to smuggle 2,000 cases of whisky with a street value of nearly \$2 million into Kuwait, Al Qabas newspaper reported Tuesday. Alcohol is banned in Kuwait where a bottle of whisky sells on the black market for as much as 40 dinars (\$145).

Cyprus detains Lebanese with gun

LARNACA (R) — A Lebanese arrested at Larnaca airport with a gun hidden in a radio-cassette player was remanded in custody pending investigation Tuesday. Police told Larnaca district court that Hassan Mousa, 22, had admitted coming to Cyprus to commit a crime. Airport security guards found a gun, a silencer and two magazines in an X-ray check of luggage on a Middle East Airlines (MEA) flight from Beirut Monday. The court ordered that Mousa be held in custody for eight days while police probe

his connections on the island.

Carpet smugglers arrested in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Members of an ad-hoc Iranian police force have seized from smugglers 500 silk-woven Persian carpets worth millions of dollars, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The official agency, monitored in Cyprus, said men from the Islamic Komiteh also arrested the five smugglers as they were taking the carpets to a "safe house" in Damavand near Tehran. It said many of the carpets of display were as much as 300 years old. Such carpets often increase in value with age. The smugglers intended to take the carpets to Arab states in the Gulf region and also to Turkey. The agency said the Komiteh, which is an ad-hoc network of Islamic revolutionary committees that functions as an unofficial police force in many towns, handed the smugglers over to the government's Islamic courts for trial. Iran exported 12,000 tons of hand-woven carpets last year in the official market, but many also were shipped to foreign countries illegally by smugglers, the government announced recently. In the early years of the Gulf war, carpet exports were banned on grounds that carpets were a part of the nation's store of wealth, but this led to a recession in the industry. As the war dragged on, and as oil prices slumped, the government changed course and again allowed carpets to be exported but only under strict regulations.

Herzog sworn in for second term

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli President Chaim Herzog was sworn in for a second five-year term Monday. In an inaugural speech to parliament, the Irish-born Herzog, 69, urged Israelis to preserve the "democratic nature" of their society and fight racism and hatred between Arabs and Jews. The Israeli presidency is a largely ceremonial position.

Jordan proposes pan-Arab rapid deployment force

(Continued from page 1)

the "summit institution" is separate from the Arab League, "but Jordan would not stipulate Egypt's attendance as a condition for participating in the summit."

However, he said, the subject of Egypt's attendance at the summit should be discussed with Arab leaders before agreement could be reached on the summit. "Egypt is part of the Arab World and its participation in such conferences is required to safeguard the unity of the Arab World," the King noted.

However, Jordan has welcomed the idea of the summit, which would focus attention on the Palestine problem and means of supporting the Arab people of Palestine under Israeli rule, "the King said.

Superpowers' position

Replying to other questions, the King said:

"For a long time I have not been happy about the consensus between the extreme right in the U.S. and Israel but Jordan will have to pursue the dialogue with the United States administration and with other nations, specially the permanent members of the

U.N. Security Council.

"We do not have any problem in dealing on this question with the Soviet Union, China and the European countries and also the rest of the world."

"The problem lies in Israel and its intransigence and also the continued U.S. support for Israel's negative attitude towards the American initiative."

"The Soviet Union adopts a stand almost identical to the view of the Arab Nation completely unlike the U.S. Since 1967, the U.S. stand has shown a regressive attitude. Nonetheless, Jordan will maintain the dialogue with Washington and will continue to encourage a dialogue among the U.N. Security Council members which could persuade the U.S. to take a more realistic stand that would contribute favourably towards a solution and the convening of an international conference. Such a conference is seen by the Arabs as the only means for achieving a peaceful settlement that can be guaranteed by the Security Council."

Arab coordination
"Jordan continues the process of coordinating Arab positions,

particularly those of Syria and Jordan, on matters connected with the international conference. At the international conference, Jordan as well as the Arab countries will seek implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 which deal with the Palestine problem in all its aspects.

"But, in the light of the 1974 Rabat Arab summit resolutions, Jordan cannot act on behalf of the Palestinians, who should be represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Jordan does not wish to impose any domination on the Palestinians or any part of the Palestinian land in any way."

PLO role

"Jordan has been trying to get the PLO into the international conference through the joint Jordanian-Palestinian accord but our endeavours ended in deadlock. The PLO ought to shoulder its responsibility and take part in the international conference to safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people, who are now involved in a revolt against the Israeli occupation and seeking

liberation."

"We had been under the impression that the PLO rejects the idea of a joint delegation but we learnt later that the PLO leadership had been in contact with Egypt seeking a joint PLO-Egyptian delegation to the conference. Egypt declined to accept the proposal as it felt that would undermine the ongoing coordination among Syria, Jordan and Egypt on this question."

"What we propose is to send a joint delegation with the Jordanians and the Palestinians as separate entities under one umbrella with the Jordanians negotiating over Israeli-occupied territory in the East Bank while the Palestinians will deal with the West Bank. In fact, there are other issues to be discussed at such a conference which are of concern to Jordan, like the water issues which are of concern to Arab countries surrounding Israel."

"The Palestinians have all the right to determine their own future once the land is liberated. Jordan will continue to extend assistance and support for the Palestinian people to regain their rights and their homeland..."

Kuwait to try 5 on terrorism charges; 3 said held for blasts

KUWAIT (AP) — Three persons have been arrested in connection with recent bomb explosions, a newspaper reported Tuesday, and judicial authorities announced that five others held on terrorism charges will go on trial June 4.

The government did not confirm the arrests reported by the daily Al Watan which, quoting no sources, identified the detainees as two nationals of a non-neighbouring Arab state and an Iranian.

It said they were being interrogated "on charges of planting explosives" at the offices of Saudia, the Saudi Arabian national airlines April 27 and the Al Dawliya complex where the American company Avis Rent-a-Car was targeted May 7.

The blasts have been blamed by Kuwaiti newspapers on pro-Iranian elements, pointing to the minority in Kuwait who belong to the same Shi'ite sect that is pre-

dominant in Iran.

Kuwait's state security court president announced he has fixed June 4 for the trial of five persons accused of terrorist acts within the country including an attempt to assassinate security personnel, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

One of the five was still at large and would be tried in absentia, said the agency.

Details given by the president, Mohammad Al Banai, indicated it was a case separate from the string of bombings that have come to light in the country over the years.

Three of the five belonged to one family, with four carrying

Kuwaiti nationality while the nationality of the fifth who was at large was still unknown, KUNA reported.

The names given were Ibrahim Abbas Jaafar Zenil, Suleiman Abbas Jaafar Zenil, Mohammad Ibrahim Abbas Jaafar and Ahmad Hussein Khamis. The fugitive was identified as Hassan Ibrahim Hussein.

The agency report said that the five were accused of planning to assassinate some personnel of the state security department's general administration, preparing explosives, using explosives at public installations with intent to kill employees, and using force against officers of the central jailhouse.

They were also accused of usurping state property and possession of a mortar-firing weapon. The timing of the arrests and alleged offences was not revealed.

One newspaper, Al Anbaa, recently urged the government to withdraw Kuwaiti nationality from Shi'ites and deport them if it were determined to bear allegiance to Iran.

Kuwait has been target of several similar blasts in downtown Kuwait as well as at its vital oil installations for which several Shi'ites have been put on trial and convicted.

Whitehead in Algiers

ALGIERS (AP) — A senior U.S. diplomat began a two-day visit to Algeria Tuesday during which he will seek information about American hostages held in Lebanon.

Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead will also discuss with Algerian leaders American efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

Whitehead's week-long trip to Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco comes less than a month before a special Arab summit in Algiers to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Before leaving Washington, Whitehead said: "We'll be talking, particularly to the Algerians, about the hostage situation, to determine if there is anything they know about our American hostages still in captivity and to see if there's any role that they can play."

Algeria has a long history of successful international mediation, including acting as a broker in securing the 1981 release of 52 American hostages held by Iran at the U.S. embassy in Tehran for more than a year.

Whitehead also will be asking Algeria to cooperate with the United States in apprehending the hijackers of a Kuwaiti jetliner and flew it to Algiers, killing two hostages along the way.

Algeria mediated an end to the 16-day ordeal, freeing the 31 hostages and letting the hijackers go free. The United States still does not know whether the hijackers have left Algiers, Whitehead said.

A number of Western nations, including the United States, criticised Algiers for allowing the hijackers to escape.

Whitehead softened the criticism, saying the United States "had no basis to criticise in any severe way" Algeria's handling of the hijacking.

He said the Algerians had to balance the desire to catch the hijackers with concern for the safety of the hostages.

"It was a difficult job," he said.

Discussing his planned talks in Tunisia, Whitehead said he would make it clear to authorities there that the United States did not have any role in last month's assassination of Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Abu Jihad, deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is believed to have been killed by Israeli agents.

Whitehead said Tunisia is "very pleased" that the United States did not veto a U.N. resolution condemning the assassination.

Hostage's greatest fear is commando rescue bid

PARIS (AP) — American hostage Terry Anderson's greatest fear is a commando raid against his captors in Lebanon, an action

No pre-trial pardons in Iran-contra affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan has ruled out the possibility of pardons before trial for any of the defendants in the Iran-contra case, according to a columnist who had lunch with the president.

In addition, Reagan said Monday he might not have to "face that issue" at all if the trial was not conducted before his term ends, syndicated columnist Carl Rowan said.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater has said the president has refused to discuss the issue of pardons in the past.

Rowan reported on the president's comments during an interview on WUSA-TV in Washington Monday evening.

The president said he "didn't believe in giving pardons before people are convicted of anything." Rowan related, adding that Reagan reasoned "it leaves the cloud of guilt on through the years."

Rowan noted that Reagan left open the possibility of pardons after the trial, but given the delays in the start of the trial, Reagan said, "I won't have to face that issue."

At issue is whether Reagan will consider either pretrial or post-trial pardons of his former National Security Adviser John Poindexter, Oliver North, a former National Security Council staffer, retired air force Major-General Richard V. Secord and his business partner, Albert Hakim.

The four are charged with conspiring to illegally divert profits from clandestine U.S.-Iran arms sales to the Nicaraguan rebels. The U.S. constitution gives the president sweeping pardon powers amounting to a legal grant of absolution.

that would mean his certain death, according to a Frenchman who shared a cell with him.

Marcel Fontaine, 45, a diplomat released last week after nearly three years of captivity, said Monday he and Anderson were in the same cell for six months and frequently spoke of the possibility that either the French or the Americans would turn to military action.

"We were afraid," Fontaine told Anderson's sister, Peggy Say, during a meeting in his home. "Every time anybody knocked on the door, two guards immediately stepped in, pointed guns at us and waited for whoever was going to come in."

"There is no chance that any commandos would ever get in without us being killed. We were all of us always afraid that there would be a commando raid by the French or the Americans."

Say arrived in Paris Monday to meet with Fontaine and two other French hostages released Wednesday in Beirut — journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann and diplomat Marcel Carton.

Anderson, 40, chief Middle East correspondent for the AP, was kidnapped in west Beirut March 16, 1985, by pro-Iranian Lebanese and is the longest-held Western hostage in Lebanon. Lebanese kidnappers are holding

18 foreigners, including nine Americans.

Fontaine said Anderson does not know that his father and his brother have died since he has been in captivity. The Frenchman said he knew of those deaths because he had heard of them earlier on the radio, but he didn't tell Anderson for fear it would have a serious effect on his morale.

Probably the second-greatest worry of the hostages, said Fontaine, is becoming seriously ill. He said no medical treatment is allowed, and if they should suffer a serious ailment, they would simply die.

That is what happened to another Frenchman, Michel Seurat, according to French reports. The Islamic Jihad organisation, which claims to be holding Anderson and others, claimed Seurat was killed. But the recently returned Frenchman said he died of illness, probably cancer.

Fontaine said Anderson's morale was high, and he frequently praised the journalists' courage. He said Anderson exercises continuously, walking round and round in his cell to keep fit.

Fontaine said he began teaching Anderson French, and he has learned to read it rather well. Anderson, in turn, taught Fontaine English.

2,800-year-old treasure unearthed in Iraqi city

BAGHDAD (R) — A 2,800-year-old treasure trove has been discovered by archaeologists excavating a tomb in the ancient Iraqi city of Nimrud, the English-language newspaper Baghdad Observer said Tuesday.

The 200 artefacts included precious stones and valuable beads, the paper quoted Mo'ayyad Sa'id, the director general of the Iraqi Antiquities Department as saying.

Sa'id told the Observer the treasure was found in a tomb at the northern palace of Assyrian King Ashur Nasir Pal II, who ruled from 833 to 859 B.C.

The newspaper quoted other archaeologists as saying the treasure probably belonged to a

woman in the king's entourage, whose skeleton was found in the tomb.

Archaeologists said gold chains decorated with bells, bracelets studded with precious stones and one of 11 rows of gold beads, were unearthed.

They said the items showed the great skill of Assyrian craftsmen, citing a bracelet with a meticulously crafted five by six centimetres golden pomegranate to which two smaller pomegranates were attached.

Marble cosmetic jars, gold ornaments and vases were also discovered in the tomb which is decorated in cuneiform script reading: "The place of King Ashur Nasir Pal, King of all, King of Assur."

Arafat reports receiving U.S. threat

(Continued from page 1)

of political assassination, "had no knowledge of" and "was not involved in any way in this assassination."

"It has come to our attention that the PLO leader Yasser Arafat may have personally approved a series of terrorist attacks against American citizens and facilities abroad, possibly in retaliation for last month's assassination of Abu Jihad."

"Any possible targeting of American personnel and facilities in retaliation for Abu Jihad's assassination would be totally reprehensible and unjustified. We would hold the PLO responsible for any such attacks."

A PLO statement issued Tuesday said: "The PLO sees this official U.S. stand as a very dangerous indication and a new evidence of U.S. intention to commit future aggressive acts against the PLO and its leadership."

Arafat said the text of the message and the PLO's statement had been sent to the United Nations to be distributed as official documents. All Arab and

friendly countries were also informed, he added.

Arafat said the PLO had helped save American lives several times.

Arafat said: "Our own reading of the document reveals the U.S. administration is planning, in full cooperation with the Israelis, to conduct a crusade of terrorist attacks and then to blame the PLO for them."

"These attacks will then be used to justify the assassination of PLO leaders."

Arafat strongly denied that the PLO was planning any such acts, saying the PLO was committed to "struggle against the Israeli occupation in accordance with international laws and norms."

In Washington, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said Tuesday the United States had received reports that the PLO might target Americans for attack.

Beirut militias fortify positions

(Continued from page 1)

snipers in Msharrafyeh.

Fighters from both sides voiced scepticism about the truce, mediated by Iran and Syria, and remained crouched behind sandbagged positions with their Kalashnikov rifles and rocket launchers.

"Security committees and ceasefires are like sedatives. They will not solve the conflict," said Aiman, commander of an Amal position in Ghobeiri as he stood behind sandbags with scores of bearded fighters in military fatigues.

"If Hizbollah men don't withdraw from our positions, the fighting will flare again," said Akram, an Amal military official in Ghobeiri.

"This battle will not end with a truce. We want our rights to have bases and influence here," a Hizbollah fighter said.

Hizbollah took control of at least seven Amal positions in the fighting. Security sources told Reuters an unknown number of Amal militiamen manning five of them defected to Hizbollah, giving

the radicals a fresh advantage. An Amal official confirmed that "Amal members with fundamentalist affiliations" defected to Hizbollah.

Residents ventured out of dark, damp shelters into the rubble-strewn streets of the southern suburbs to inspect houses and shops damaged in four days of bitter artillery, tank, mortar, rocket and machinegun fire.

Six security teams, each comprising 20 men drawn from Amal and Hizbollah and headed by Syrian and Iranian observers, toured flashpoints in the maze of narrow streets to prevent truce violations.

Local newspapers said the security force included 36 Syrian soldiers and 72 Iranians, believed drawn from 500 Iranian Revolutionary Guards deployed in Lebanon since 1982.

Abdul Hadi Hamadi, a senior Hizbollah official alleged by security sources to be behind the abduction of West German hostages in Beirut, represented Hizbollah on the truce patrols. Reuters said quoting sources.

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Kuwaiti banks show modest recovery

KUWAIT (R) — A government rescue scheme nursed Kuwaiti banks to a modest recovery last year despite an escalation in the Iran-Iraq war and lingering recession caused by falling oil income.

Bankers and officials in the northern Gulf state say they are nearing the end of a clean-up of bad debt that has sapped bank profits since the 1982 collapse in world oil prices and crash of the local "Souk Al Manakh" stock market.

"The problem of Al Manakh is 95 per cent behind us," said Saleh Al Falah, general manager of Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East. "This will be the year we can look to the future."

The central bank puts non-performing loans at a huge 2.5 billion dinars, the equivalent of \$9 billion and more than half the total outstanding credits to the private sector.

Much of it stems from Manakh, an unofficial stock exchange that collapsed amid wild speculation based on post-dated cheques.

A central bank bail-out unique in the Gulf has pumped between 500 and 600 million dinars (\$1.8 to \$2.2 billion) in low-interest and

interest-free deposits into banks unable to meet required loan loss provisions, bankers said.

The funds are linked to banks' progress in rescheduling debts over terms of up to 15 years.

Largely as a result, all six Kuwaiti commercial banks reported higher 1987 profits despite a flare-up in the Iran-Iraq war that brought Iranian missiles slamming into Kuwaiti oil installations.

Showing new-found confidence, some of the worst-hit banks announced cash dividends for the first time since 1984.

One of them, Burgan Bank, distributed its first cash dividend since 1980, when the outbreak of the Gulf war soured out Kuwait's lucrative re-export trade with Iran and Iraq.

Another, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, recently moved into a stunning new 18-storey headquarters overlooking the Gulf.

"I think now we have reached

the bottom. If any way, it's going to be up. How strongly is anyone's guess," Gulf Bank General Manager Yousef Al Awadi told Reuters.

He said he hoped his bank's biggest debt settlements would be finalised by the end of June. Cases for which there was no hope of recovery would be written off to the extent possible.

"We're planning for the bottom line (this year) to be better than 1987," he said.

Net profits at Gulf Bank, the second largest after National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), shot up 61 per cent last year to 7.1 million dinars (\$26 million).

NBK, the only bank to cover loan loss provisions without government help, declared net profit of 26.7 million dinars (\$97 million) and tucked away an equal amount into hidden reserves, bankers said. Declared profits were 5.1 per cent higher than in 1986.

No capital flight

Escalation of the war has had a negative impact on business confidence but has not led to a much-feared outflow of funds.

"One would expect because of

the war to see people take their money outside Kuwait. But we haven't seen anything like this," said Falah.

Some say there has even been a limited repatriation of funds by clients hurt in last October's world stock crash.

Few expect a dramatic turnaround this year in the Kuwaiti economy, heavily dependent on oil income, after renewed weakness in the world oil market since January.

Government spending, which drives economic activity, is expected to stagnate or rise only slightly in the 1988-89 fiscal year which starts on July 1.

But some banks have been able to boost revenue through judicious lending and new products that range from investment funds and advisory services to home banking and travellers' cheques dispensed through automatic teller machines.

Staff and expenses have been cut and some branches shut.

"The emphasis now in the bank is really to move into non-interest income, fees and commissions and trading income," Gulf Bank's Awadi said.

Aggressive advertising

Banks advertise aggressively on television for a share of the growing consumer loan market, which surged after an interest rate cut in March 1987.

Private residential construction appears to be undergoing a mini-boom, also spurred by lower interest rates. Overall loans to the private sector rose seven per cent during 1987 to 4.6 billion dinars (\$17 billion).

Government treasury bills and bonds launched last November to finance the state budget deficit have proved attractive new assets that also help banks manage cash flows.

NBK, which already has a robust international network, hopes to expand business in the Gulf outside Kuwait among top institutional clients.

But competition will be severe in a country of 1.7 million people often described as overbanked.

"It's going to be very tough. The cake is smaller now. You don't see overall demand in the economy increasing... this of course will limit domestic lending opportunities," Awadi said.

Top Jordanian officials look into stimulating trade, industry

AMMAN (Petra) — The Consultative Economic Council chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai met at the prime minister's office Monday evening to follow up discussions on Jordan's policies designed to stimulate the economic sector.

Discussion centred on the Kingdom's import-export operations and trade in general.

The prospects for increasing the volume of exports of national products, creating proper and attractive climate for investments, granting facilities that would promote exports were reviewed along with a number of financial and monetary strategies to achieve that goal.

The council also examined a number of measures that would help preserve traditional markets for Jordanian products and open new markets for such goods as well as steps to be taken for organising export operations in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Jordanian chambers of industry and commerce.

All facilities to be given in this regard would benefit national products originating in the Kingdom, according to a statement following the meeting.

Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qasbi briefed the council on the monetary policy in Jordan, and the existing cooperation between the Central Bank of Jordan and local banks with regard to foreign currency reserves and the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar against major currencies.

The council stressed that foreign currency reserves at the central bank were sound and in a position enabling the Kingdom to meet its external commitments and preserve the national economic credibility.

It also voiced its total confidence in the Jordanian dinar and its stable rate of exchange, despite the high degree of fluctuations among foreign currencies.

The statement said that the council, which had been holding meetings over the past few days, plans to hold more sessions in the coming days to debate further aspects of the Kingdom's economic strategies.

JAMPCO to open tomato plants

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) has decided to open its tomato processing plant at Arida as of Wednesday to receive the tomato crop for turning it into paste.

JAMPCO Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan said that the opening of the Arida plant before schedule was decided on to help producers avoid further loss in view of the excessive quantities of the tomatoes in the market and the low price at which they are being sold to wholesale markets.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for May 10, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	309766	JD 400505	272
Top three companies:			
Arab Bank Ltd.	790	JD 90273	10
Petra Bank	27500	JD 56375	1
National Cable and Wire Manufacturing	43090	JD 41822	21
Parallel market:	52964	JD 24800	—
Development bonds:	30	324	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8825/35	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2375/85	Canadian dollar
	1.6798/6803	Deutschemarks
	1.8830/35	Dutch guilders
	1.3980/90	Swiss francs
	35.11/14	Belgian francs
	5.6930/60	French francs
	1246/1249	Italian lire
	124.51/61	Japanese yen
	5.8715/45	Swedish crowns
	6.1510/40	Norwegian crowns
	6.4710/40	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	446.85/447.35	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices sank to their lowest levels for six weeks on thin trading volume. The All-Ordinaries Index dropped 7.8 to 1,399.3.

TOKYO — Prices rose on speculative buying and bargain-hunting after three days of losses. But Wall Street's weakness kept some investors sidelined. The Nikkei Index gained 147.95 to 27,412.25.

HONG KONG — The market was weaker despite some late buying support. One broker said there was little incentive to enter the market. The Hang Seng Index lost 21.01 to 2,563.02.

SINGAPORE — Prices were marginally lower across the board on lack of buying interest in lethargic trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index was down 5.13 to 966.77.

BOMBAY — Strong speculative and institutional demand pushed up shares sharply on a broad front. Brokers said the recovery was sparked by fresh tax relief for the corporate sector two weeks ago.

FRANKFURT — Prices fell further, despite good corporate news, as fears of higher world interest rates continued to sap confidence. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, lost 16.1 to 1,310.4.

ZURICH — The market edged lower in quiet trading. Banks were mixed but industrials were mostly down. The All-Share Swiss Index slipped 3.4 to 802.1.

PARIS — Prices were lower, reversing gains after President Mitterrand's re-election. Dealers said the market was consolidating. The 50-share Bourse Indicator declined by 1.07 per cent.

LONDON — Prices remained weak but recovered from their lowest levels after Wall Street's firm opening. At 1430 GMT, the FTSE 100 share index was down 6.2 to 1,788.7.

NEW YORK — Stocks were higher after an early surge on announcements by major brokerage firms that they would end certain futures-related arbitrage trading. The Dow gained 15 to 2,012.

Soviets obtain \$2b credit

BONN, West Germany (AP) — West German banks will grant the Soviet Union a 3.5-billion-mark (\$2.08 billion) line of credit to help modernise its consumer goods industry, a banking spokesman said Monday.

Harald Schmitz, spokesman for West Germany's Deutsche Bank, said that the financial institution is the lead bank in a consortium that will provide the line of credit.

"There will be discussions (with other West German banks) over this in the next few days," Schmitz told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"The credit will be for financing the modernisation of the Soviet Union's consumer-goods and food-processing industries," Schmitz said.

Deutsche Bank said the package was arranged by Yuri Moscovsky, chairman of the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank, and Deutsche Bank Co-chairman F. Wilhelm Christians.

Bankers see increasing risk of inflation

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — The world's top bankers are showing signs of unease about a possible spurt to inflation after months of worrying about a stock crash-induced recession, monetary sources said Monday.

"They seem to be worried about inflation and that is new because in previous months the talk was about recession," said one official who emerged from the monthly meeting of central bankers of leading industrial countries at the Bank for International Settlements.

"I would not say we are talking about the (immediate) danger of inflation," another official said, "but we have a high level of liquidity growth which can motivate inflation."

Many central banks opened the money sluices after last October's stock market crash, priming their economies with extra injections of cash. Now they are increasingly concerned the excess liquidity could stoke inflationary pressure.

"People now see inflation as a

possible feature on the scene in contrast to the possibility of recession, which was seen as a danger six months ago," one central banker said.

But the officials said there was little talk of adjusting interest rates or concern about the recent rise in long-term U.S. rates.

"We are in an intermediate situation," one central banker said. "The feeling is that interest rates are stable. We do not know if that is temporary or whether there will be a turnaround."

"We feel there was already a market tendency for long-term interest rates to go up, in the U.S. in particular," another added.

"This is not a new development." The monetary sources said retail price inflation in most major industrialised countries remains low.

But a strong rise in prices of commodities and industrial raw materials over the past year has been flashing warning signals about the economic outlook.

Iran blames Riyadh for OPEC deadlock

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh accused Saudi Arabia Monday of introducing political quarrels into last week's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, said he told reporters in Tehran that this led to deadlock

on a proposal to cut OPEC production in order to prop up prices.

"The Hijaz (Saudi) regime puts forth baseless things because of the political situation in the region... the atmosphere in OPEC will not be agreeable if we mix it with political problems," he said.

But Aqazadeh said he believed pressure from other OPEC members would persuade Saudi Arabia, which cut relations with Tehran on April 26, to agree to an output cut by next month.

In Vienna last week, Saudi Arabia and three other Gulf Arab states opposed an Algerian proposal to reduce OPEC output by 300,000 barrels per day (b/d) in response to offers of produc-

tion cuts by six non-OPEC producers.

Aqazadeh said the non-OPEC offer was "very significant because by reaching an understanding with non-OPEC oil producers we can rectify the problem of supply and demand and control a larger share of oil exports to the Western World."

He said he was optimistic that the Saudis would revise their position before the next OPEC meeting, set for June 8 in Vienna, and a "comprehensive understanding" would be reached with non-OPEC producers.

Overproduction has kept oil prices about \$2 below the OPEC target of \$18 per barrel. Industry analysts put OPEC's output in April at 18 million b/d, despite an

agreed ceiling of 15.06 million b/d.

Aqazadeh said he was sure other oil producing countries would object that Riyadh had prevented an agreement with non-OPEC producers.

IMF cuts off Somalia from getting credit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut off Somalia from further credit because of unpaid debts.

A Monday announcement from IMF headquarters said the East African country's "overdue financial obligations to the fund" as of last Friday totalled approximately \$36.1 million.

Somalia lacks natural resources and its economy depends on livestock and agriculture, despite little rainfall.

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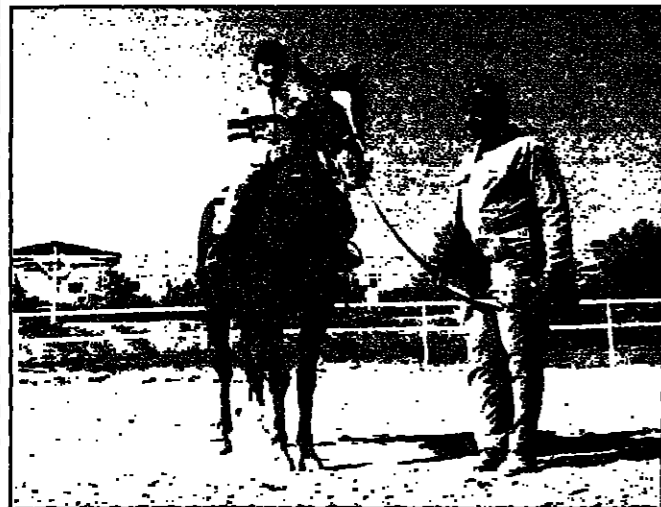
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Queens official tight-lipped over McEnroe ban

LONDON (AP) — A hush of anticipation, tinged with a little apprehension, is hanging over an exclusive tennis club in a corner of West London.

John Patrick McEnroe may be coming back.

"It's a very delicate situation, my friend," said Clive Bernstein, tournament director of the \$290,000 Queens Club Grass Court Championships.

Queens Club is the main warm-up for Wimbledon and is frequently won by the player who goes on to take the men's singles crown in the oldest tennis "Grand Slam" events.

The 102-year-old club also was the scene of one of McEnroe's most publicized tantrums the last time he played there, three years ago.

"McEnroe is still a very good player but if he wants to play here, the tournament committee will have to decide," Bernstein said Monday.

In 1985, McEnroe walked out of Queens Club after being accused of insulting a group of women members.

They said the New Yorker had used abusive language when asked to vacate a court where he was practicing. McEnroe was asked to give up his honorary membership of the club, or be expelled.

He did what club members termed "the honourable thing" and quit.

Two weeks later at Wimbledon, the top-seeded McEnroe was upset in the quarterfinals by Kevin Curren, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

He has not returned to Queens or Wimbledon since.

Although his name does not figure in the main draw at this year's Queens Club tournament, speculation has swirled for weeks that McEnroe will ask for a wild card.

The 29-year-old left-hander, now in the middle of a comeback after a series of voluntary and injury related breaks from the sport, says he wants to try for a fourth singles title at Wimbledon, which takes place June 20-July 3.

No other tournament can provide better preparation for that than Queens, with its lush green courts, low bounce, sometimes slippery surface, and an atmosphere of refinery and elegance.

Bernstein said McEnroe had not yet indicated whether he would be asking to come back for the June 6-12 tournament.

"He will have to apply before I have given them (the wild cards) all away," said Bernstein, who has five wild cards available, two of which must go to British players. "Obviously I like to hang on to my wild cards for as long as possible."

Bernstein said he had received "five or six" applications for the three available international wild cards, but refused to identify the players involved.

He said McEnroe's acceptance into the draw would not be a foregone conclusion if the American applies to play.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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AGAINST ALL-ODDS

By Charles North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 7 6
♥ J 10 6 5
♦ J 4
♣ Q 8 7 3

WEST ♠ K Q J 5 3 2 ♠ 10 4
♥ 3 ♠ Q 7 4
♦ K 9 ♠ 8 7 6 3 2
♣ 6 4 2 ♠ J 10 5

SOUTH
♠ 8
♥ A K 9 8 2
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ A K 9

The bidding:
1 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

"Eight ever, nine never" is a perfectly sound axiom if you know nothing else about the distribution of the hands. Mathematically, if you have nine cards in the suit missing the queen, the odds favoring the drop is 52 percent. But those odds change when you know one player has a long suit.

West's preemptive bid of four spades was a good tactic at this vulnerability. It forced North-South to guess at a high level. Here, though, it boomeranged, for not only did it drive North-South to a slam they might not have bid under their own steam, but it persuaded declarer to

make a play that would normally be anti-percentage.

Declarer won the opening spade lead in dummy and elected to test diamonds by running the jack. That lost, and West returned a spade, ruffed in the closed hand. Declarer cashed one high trump and, with virtually no time out for thinking, crossed to the queen of clubs and ran the table's other red jack. When that held, declarer drew the last trump and claimed the balance for a most satisfying result.

Had there been no intervening bidding, declarer would almost surely have gone down in his slam. The percentage play would have been to try to drop the queen of trumps, and declarer would have lost a trick in each red suit as a result.

Here, however, West was marked with a seven-card spade suit for his preempt, so he had no more than six unknown cards. East, on the other hand, had started with no more than two spades, so he had 11 unknown cards. Even a poor mathematician knows that, if you take 17 random items and give six to one person and 11 to another, the odds on either one having a specific item must be greatly in favor of the person who holds the more goodies. Applying that to the heart suit, East was a strong favorite to hold the queen of hearts, so the finesse became the percentage play.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

TV network offers \$400m for Olympic rights

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — A U.S. television network has offered \$400 million for broadcasting rights of the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics, an organizing committee spokesman said Tuesday. Spokesman Pedro Palacios, who would not name the network, told Reuters the figure was mentioned during preliminary contacts and visits to Barcelona by the vice-presidents of three major U.S. networks. Real bargaining would start after this year's Seoul games. The offer was well above the \$293 million television and radio income foreseen in the Barcelona organizing committee's budget. But Palacios said the budget was drafted three years ago when the dollar was well above current levels and that Seoul was expected to earn up to \$506 million from television. Palacios also said that a strike by Barcelona construction workers had delayed work on the Olympic stadium for two months and the village was now due to be completed next May ready to host the European Athletics Championships in September 1989.

Squash players rewrite rule book

AMSTERDAM (R) — Top professional squash players decided Monday to introduce sweeping rule changes in a bid to make the sport more attractive for spectators. The International Squash Players Association (ISPA) agreed to change the scoring system, service rules and one aspect of the court layout at professional Grand Prix events from the start of next year. ISPA, which lays down the rules for all Grand Prix events, announced the changes after a three-hour meeting in Amsterdam, attended by players competing in this week's World Championship. "These are rules that will make or break squash," ISPA chairman Stuart Davenport told Reuters. "The changes will make the game quicker, more exciting and hopefully attract more spectators and television viewers to the sport. The game will be more dynamic with them," he said.

United pair withdraw from Scotland squad

MANCHESTER (R) — Manchester United have withdrawn leading scorer Brian McClair and Gordon Strachan from the Scotland squad to face England and Colombia in the Rous Cup triangular tournament next week. United have a prestige friendly against AC Milan May 24 — the night of the Colombia match — and manager Alex Ferguson said: "With so many injuries to key men like Norman Whiteside and Viv Anderson, I needed both players. Strachan, recalled by Scotland after eight months out in the cold, said: "It was nice to be recognised again after being out for so long, but I have a job to do with United. I hope Andy Roxburgh will keep me in mind for future Scotland games."

Cantona joins Marseille

MARSEILLE, France (R) — French Club Marseille said Tuesday they had signed national striker Eric Cantona after a tug-of-war between three of the country's top clubs. The Auxerre centre-forward, who at 21 is already a fixture in the national team, was also sought by Monaco and Marta Racing Paris and had attracted the interest of some Italian clubs. No transfer fee was divulged but Auxerre were believed to be asking for 22 million francs (\$3.86 million). Cantona, regarded as potentially France's best striker for many years, scored three goals in the 6-4 aggregate win over England last month which put the French under-21 team into the European Championship final.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Ringer Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A path of worthwhile accomplishment may be interrupted due to a considerable amount of confusion. As a result, you would be wise to double check all facts and figures, and avoid any arguments.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): A recent acquaintance could cause you much trouble in the business world, so avoid this person. Relax at home with your family this evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Don't become involved in an argument between your mate and a good friend, as it is none of your business and will soon blow over.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): This is not a good time to confront a superior about a difference of opinion. You would be wise to stick with tried and true methods today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Although you are eager to put some new ideas in motion, it would be better to give them further study before doing so.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Don't forsake your business responsibilities in order to run off for some recreation. Don't allow a friend to come between you and your mate.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): If you invite a casual acquaintance

into your home today, make sure this person won't start any trouble there or revive old arguments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23): Work on improving the condition of your budget today, and don't get into any pleasures which could ruin your health. Get plenty of rest tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21): Although a usually-reliable friend may advise you to do so, be extremely cautious about making any major investments today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Listen to the advice of your family, and don't become frustrated by minor setbacks. This is an ideal night for entertaining.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): You can reap some fine benefits today if you keep your eyes and ears open. Catch up on your neglected correspondence this evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Use your common sense where finances are concerned, and don't allow anyone to rope you into a silly get-rich-quick scheme.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): If career and credit matters are not going well today, you can handle them better tomorrow. Pay more attention to your health.

Budd's cheerful career ends in tears

LONDON (R) — Zola Budd has suffered a major nervous collapse from which she will not recover for several months, her coach John Bryant said Tuesday.

"She is suffering from deep depression and has been weeping a lot. It has all been too much for her," Bryant told Reuters.

The 21-year-old South African-born athlete flew into Johannesburg Tuesday hours after announcing she was pulling out of international competition.

Bryant admitted that Budd's decision to return to her native land would fuel the anti-apartheid campaign against her but she had done so on her doctor's recommendation.

"I have had long talks with her and she is aware of the implications. But she needs to be surrounded by her family. There is no way I could deny her that," he said.

"The doctors tell me she is incapable of rational thought. It is terrible to see someone reduced to that state."

And Bryant said that despite the large amounts of appearance money Budd had received, including £92,000 (\$173,000) for one race, she had little money left.

"Not only is she broken, but she is close to being broke," he said.

He explained that Budd had paid vast amounts of tax and had also spent large sums retaining lawyers both in preparation for a British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) inquiry due this month and previously in an effort to overcome attempts to prevent her running in the Commonwealth Games two years ago.

She also had no sponsorship and on top of that, injury prevented her running last year and therefore she had no income.

Bryant said the controversy over whether she had "taken part" in an athletics meeting in South Africa, due to be the subject of the BAAB inquiry, had increased the pressure on Budd.

"She is being tried for an offence she knows she did not commit. But she said to me that even if she was cleared by the inquiry, she felt they still would not let her go to the Olympic Games."

"She is a human sacrifice, if you like, on the altar of this row."

Budd has been at the centre of a controversy ever since she was granted rapid British citizenship in time for the Los Angeles Olympics four years ago.

Her coach blamed athletics officials for allowing the situation

to develop.

"The problems should have been defined and resolved by the athletics authorities and made clear to Zola. If you define problems you should be able to come up with a solution, but they never have and this has caused much of the tension," he said.

"Instead, she has been subjected to cumulative, intolerable pressure and she can see no solution to it, no end. The world has kicked her around too much."

Pitiful state

Budd's doctor said later the runner was in a pitiful state, suffering from bouts of crying and deep depression, when she left Britain for South Africa.

"She was enormously stressed and disturbed. She was on the verge of tears most of the time, she was clearly very wound up," Ken Kingsbury told British Television.

"She was very... uncertain about the whole situation and she was like a lot of people in that, when they're under extreme pressure, they don't really know what it is they want, or want to do," Kingsbury said.

"She was obviously stressed, she was sweating. She hadn't slept for nights and she was obviously exhausted," he said.

Kingsbury said Budd had given him permission to talk about her medical condition.

He said her pulse rate was much higher than normal, she suffered headaches and her tissues were "very tight and stringy with tension."

Bryant, interviewed by British Television, described her as a highly-strung woman, full of nervous energy.

"(That) is what makes her a good athlete. But when that nervous energy is dissipated in other ways, I've seen her rather crumble as a human being," he said.

Mixed reaction

Meanwhile, Budd's decision to quit international athletics was greeted with sadness in some quarters, and relief in others.

Tony Ward, BAAB spokesman, commented: "What has happened is very sad. She has been hounded by controversy all the way."

"I always thought her story had



Zola Budd

all the hallmarks of a Greek drama which would end inevitably in tragedy."

Sam Ramsamy, head of the London-based anti-apartheid group Sanroc which has campaigned against Budd since she arrived in England four years ago, was less sympathetic.

"It's a relief. She has been such a nuisance," he said.

"I think we may now have seen the back of her. I doubt if she will return here to run again."

Ramsamy said one of the major objections to Budd was her frequent visits to her native South Africa.

"If she had denounced apartheid and genuinely cut all her links with South Africa we would have accepted her. But she did neither and, as before when there

were major problems, she has decided to return to her homeland."

Peter Hain, another leading anti-apartheid campaigner, welcomed Budd's decision. "She has been running under a flag of convenience for too long."

"She has tried to have it both ways — little miss apartheid back in South Africa, little miss innocent here," he said.

But Conservative member of parliament John Carlisle, who supports sporting links with South Africa, said it was a great tragedy for British athletics.

"I suppose it is a victory for the bigots and blackmailers. They have hounded this little girl so much she has been forced for political reasons to pull off the international stage."

Wilander cruises into Italian Open 2nd

ROME (AP) — Second-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden, crasing four set points in a marathon tiebreaker, opened his defence of the Italian Open Men's Tennis Championships Monday with a listless 7-6 (11-9), 6-1 victory over Francesco Cancellotti of Italy.

The man Wilander beat in last year's Rome final, eighth-seeded Martin Jaito of Argentina, was upset in the first round by Thomas Muster of Austria 6-2, 6-1.

No. 5 Kent Carlsson of Sweden, the only other seed in action on the first day of the \$825,000 clay court event, swept past Pavel Vojtesek of West Germany 6-4, 6-0.

Top-seeded Ivan Lendl makes his debut later this week on the slow red clay of the Foro Italico.

In his nearly two-hour match on centre court, Wilander never showed the form that has brought him 28 singles titles, including victories this year at the Australian Open and Key Biscayne.

He rarely took chances, using a safe topspin forehand and often abandoning his two-handed backhand for a defensive one-handed slice. Cancellotti, ranked No. 123 in the world, took the offensive and came up with a number of forehand winners in the first set.

"I lost the touch on my backhand, got nervous and started slicing," Wilander said. "I haven't played on clay much lately. The first match is always tough. If I can win one more, I think it will be much easier."

The Swede, serving at 5-4, had two set points, but Cancellotti responded each time with a bullet forehand winner.

In the tiebreaker, Wilander faced set points at 5-6, 6-7, 7-8 and 8-9. But Cancellotti's forehand failed him this time and the Swede prevailed 11-9.

"I didn't try to go for something. I just let him make the mistakes. You have to play that way on clay," Wilander said.

Peanuts

WHY DOESN'T THE FAMOUS WORLD WARRIOR FLYING ACE GIVE A CAKE TO THE RED BARON ON HIS BIRTHDAY?

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! IT'LL SHOW THAT EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ENEMIES, WE HAVE RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER..

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH RESPECT..

Mutt'n' Jeff

MUTT: I NEED MONEY FOR A NEW SPRING HAT!

M'LOVE: I CAN'T AFFORD IT!

OKAY, TIGHT-WAD, I'LL BUY WHAT I CAN AFFORD!

Andy Capp

IT'S NEVER EASY, EH, JACK?

DECIDING WHICH TO WALK HOME...

JUST LOOK AT 'EM —

THE POOR LAD'S ALWAYS SPOILT FOR CHOICE — THERE'S NO PLAIN WOMEN AT CLOSING TIME

THE BETTER HALF.

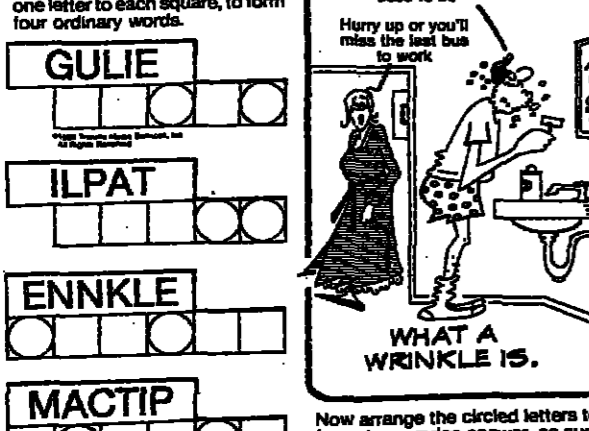
By Harris



"Are you going to defrost your cold, cold heart, or do I have to get a blowtorch?"

JUMBLE.

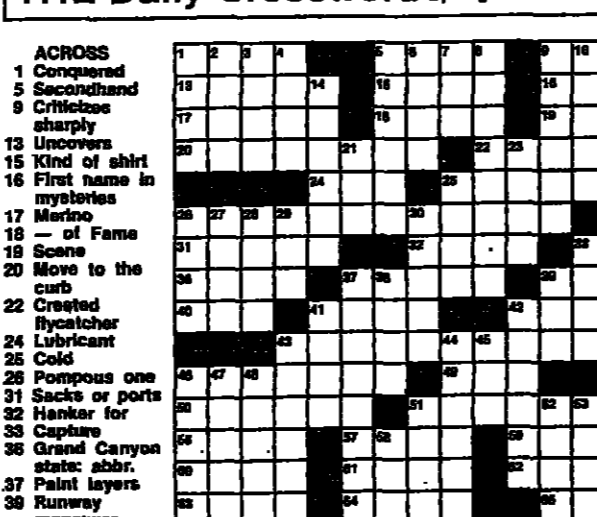
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



ANSWER: THE "O O O O" OF (Answers Monday)

Jumble: DOUGH VOCAL PESTLE HERMIT
Yesterday's Answer: What the pup who loved getting washed must have been — A "SHAMPOODLE"

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Conquered
2. Secondhand
3. Criticize sharply
4. Uncovers
5. Kind of shirt
6. First name in mysteries
7. Marlowe
8. — of Fame
9. Scene
10. Move to the curb
11. Created flycatcher
12. Lubricant
13. Cold
14. Pompous one
15. Sacks or ports
16. Hamlet's foe
17. Captain
18. Grand Canyon state abbr.
19. Paint layers
20. Runway maneuver
21. Up to now
22. Grin
23. Wet blankets
24. Hindrance
25. "Citizen Kane" also
26. Paddle
27. Rotating
28. Raincoat
29. Participating
30. Useful abbr.
31. Clotte
32. Supporters of golf
33. Top-notch
34. Stick fast
35. Folds tributary
36. Head honcho
37. DOWN
38. Recipe amt.
39. Walk's island
40. City on the Ohio
41. On an even —
42. Dated
43. Rise sharply
44. Building wing
45. Miami pros
46. Uprising
47. "Tempest" sprits
48. NATO trosh
49. Mashed
50. Pulls one's leg
51. Conundrum
52. Transporter AI
53. Chiefest
54. Influence
55. See zip
56. Element
57. Turk's topper
58. Learned man
59. Plover's tub
60. Wheel holder
61. Essence
62. Sky-blue
63. Toward the mouth
64. — too
65. Wage earner's goal
66. Part's partner
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U.S. Senate delays INF debate

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Senate leaders have delayed debate on the new U.S.-Soviet intermediate missile treaty because of unresolved questions about U.S. inspection rights in the Soviet Union.

Democratic leader Robert Byrd had tentatively scheduled a debate Wednesday. But after he and other leading senators held talks with senior administration officials it was announced Monday that debate had been postponed indefinitely.

It could still start by the end of the week if the problems are resolved.

President Ronald Reagan's national security adviser, Lieutenant General Colin Powell, indicated the decision was satisfactory.

Earlier treaty negotiator Maynard Glitman explained the situation in a closed-door meeting of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Afterwards, Democrat David Boren of Oklahoma and Republi-

can William Cohen of Maine, the committee's chairman and vice chairman respectively, said they would recommend delaying the treaty debate.

Byrd said earlier on the Senate floor that a Wednesday start to debate on the intermediate nuclear forces treaty (INF) depended on whether the inspection problem was settled.

Byrd told reporters that even after the treaty has been taken up by the Senate, work on it would have to stop if Reagan vetoed a trade bill as he has threatened and the Senate moved to override his veto.

His comment appeared to be a warning to Reagan that a veto of the trade bill could delay Senate action on the treaty until after his summit meeting in Moscow with

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the end of the month.

"It's obvious that not only have the problems which had surfaced earlier not been resolved but that some new problems have arisen," Byrd said.

"I think it behooves the Soviets to come forward with solutions and permit the Senate to open the debate with our eyes open," Byrd said.

The three Senate committees that have been evaluating the treaty — armed services, foreign relations and intelligence — will continue to monitor the situation, and Byrd said he would not schedule ratification debate until all three committees report that all outstanding, serious issues have been resolved satisfactorily.

The INF treaty requires the elimination of all U.S. and Soviet missiles with a range of between 500 to 5,000 kilometres worldwide.

The verification dispute centre mostly on access of U.S. monitors

to Soviet missile plants and sites.

The Soviets are trying to restrict inspection of missile containers to those large enough to carry an entire rocket. The United States wants the right to examine smaller containers that could carry a missile stage.

Secondly, a U.S. official said, the Soviets are trying to put parts of areas designated for inspection off-limits.

The State Department last month asked the Soviets for an explanation.

Ambassador Yuri V. Dubinin delivered Moscow's reply to the department Sunday night. State Department officials then briefed the Senate Intelligence Committee Monday.

"We don't consider the Soviet response to our questions fully satisfactory," said an official who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. "There's more work to be done."

At the White House, Deputy Press Secretary Roman Popadiuk said the White House would have no comment on the treaty dispute.

"As we have always said, the treaty stands on its own merits," he said.

Sen. Sam Nunn, the Democratic chairman of the Armed Services Committee, rejected criticism that the Senate may be "foot dragging" on the treaty.

"I can't think of anything worse than to have the treaty rushed through the Senate and then find out a week or two later that there's a major problem," he said.

Byrd also said that if the president vetoes the omnibus trade bill passed by Congress two weeks ago it could hold up ratification of the INF treaty.

He stopped short of any specific threat to hold the pact hostage to a presidential signature on the trade bill. But he said an effort to override a presidential veto could shoulder aside floor debate on the treaty.

Troops open fire in troubled Karachi area

KARACHI (R) — Troops fired on crowds in an area of Karachi under curfew and police arrested rioters and seized arms in Pakistan's biggest city, where 35 people have been killed in three days of fighting between ethnic groups.

Police said trouble broke out in the early hours of Tuesday in one of 14 areas placed under curfew in an attempt to contain clashes between Pashtuns from north-western Pakistan and Mohajirs.

Groups on both sides threw up roadblocks and fired at police and firemen trying to reach blazing, police said.

They said supporting troops fired back at one crowd, wounding eight people, after teargas failed to break up the gathering.

Three people who were wounded over the past few days died in hospital Tuesday bringing the death toll to 35 for the last three days, and to 49 since May 1, when rioting began. Police arrested at least 200 people Monday.

The Karachi government has ordered a widespread house-to-house search for illegal weapons,

many of them smuggled out of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Residents of curfew areas said there was a shortage of milk, meat, vegetables, bread and kerosene.

Akhtar Ali Khazi, chief minister of the province of Sind, which includes the seven million people of Karachi, said Tuesday the government would deal sternly with rioters.

Opposition leaders said the government had failed to cope and called for fresh elections.

"The government has totally failed to protect peaceful citizens and law and order has gone from bad to worse," said Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, chairman of the National People's Party.

Karachi's stock exchange reopened after it closed Monday because few traders turned up due to the curfew. Share prices were drifting down, said broker Haji Shakhro.

Industrialist Khalil Ahmad Nantialwala said the troubles in the country's biggest port and industrial centre were hurting the whole country.



No outrunning an Arabian horse

COLVILLE, Washington (AP) — A 43-year-old athletic trainer says he is giving up his goal of outrunning a horse even though he has lost by only a few minutes in two 80 kilometre races against an Arabian stallion. Bill Misner of Spokane reached the finish, designated as the first stoplight in Colville, just four minutes behind Zeke, ridden by Becky Farrington.

"I wanted him so bad, you can't believe it," Misner said. Misner completed the gruelling course in six hours, 44 minutes and 47 seconds after leaving the start in Deer Park. Last year, Misner lost to Zeke by six minutes. He said he decided to try to outrun a horse after watching a television programme called "Sports Fables."

"I thought, 'well golly, that would be interesting to race against a horse because Jesse Owens did that,'" he said. After the two attempts, he said, he's decided to give up the challenge.

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Monkey blacks out Indian city

NEW DELHI (AP) — The city of Kanpur was blacked out for several hours Monday after a monkey was electrocuted on the same high tension wire where her mate was killed 10 days ago. The United News of India reported. It said the female monkey had visited the site daily until jumping on the power line. Her mate died April 30 when he jumped on the same line. UNI said. Both episodes caused blackouts of several hours in Kanpur, 386 kilometres southeast of New Delhi.

Haunting Van Gogh portrait up for auction

NEW YORK (R) — A portrait by Vincent Van Gogh of the girl who would witness his suicide a month after it was painted goes up for auction at Christie's auction house Wednesday. "Adeline Ravoux," named after the 13-year-old girl, is expected to draw in excess of \$15 million according to Christie's spokesmen. "It's a high estimate for a painting, but it certainly is not that high for a Van Gogh," said Michael Findlay, head of impressionism and modern art at Christie's. The impressionist portrait depicts a young girl with a blue dress, blonde hair and a blue ribbon against a dark blue background.

Cat owner leaves \$5 million to animal charity

LONDON (AP) — An 80-year-old widow who loved animals left \$5.1 million in her will to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The charity said the bequest by Mrs. Dorothy Walker is the biggest donation it has ever received since it was founded in 1824. The society still officially retains the patronage of the royal family, although they are not much involved in its affairs these days. The charity's executive director, Andrew Richmond, said all he knew about Walker was that she was a widow who lived with her pet cat in the West London suburb of Richmond and died last December. The bequest of \$5.1 million was announced when her will worth a total of \$5.16 million was published Monday. The remainder of the money will be devoted to legal fees, estate taxes and other expenses.

Heavenly hearse

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Mourners hoping to get their loved ones to the cemetery in comfort may want to consider the latest in funeral coaches — one with velvet seats and options like a stereo, refrigerator and microwave oven. The airstream family funeral coach eliminates traffic snarls resulting from caravans of mourners travelling to the cemetery, according to its manufacturer. All this comfort and practicality doesn't come cheap, however. Funeral home directors can expect to pay \$52,000 to \$73,000 for the aluminium coaches. The 8.5-metre vehicle constructed from a motor home chassis can carry 16 people up front and the dead departed in a separate compartment towards the rear. The casket can be surrounded by shelves of flowers and be bathed in spotlight. "Some of the relatives may not have seen each other for 20 years," said Karl H. Croel, salesman for the Ohio-based airstream. "The time that they get a chance to talk together is when they're together in the privacy of this coach."

Bomb explosion at Citibank in New Delhi kills 1, injures 14

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — A powerful bomb exploded at a branch of the American Citibank in central New Delhi Tuesday killing one person and wounding 14.

Police said they did not know who planted the bomb, but immediate suspicion fell on Sikhs fighting for a separate homeland in the northern state of Punjab.

The blast, which devastated the bank, came on the eve of the first anniversary of the election of the moderate Akali Dal party in Punjab and the imposition of direct rule from New Delhi.

A U.S. embassy spokeswoman said staff at the mission had been apprised of a "red alert" issued by police against possible attacks in the Indian capital following significantly heightened separatist violence in Punjab.

She denied suggestions that U.S. diplomatic staff had been warned of possible Sikh reprisals for the deportation to India from the United States two weeks ago of wanted Sikh extremist Rupinder Singh Aankhi for overstaying his visa.

The bomb went off just after noon (0630 GMT), demolishing the entire third floor office of the New York-based bank in New Delhi's busy Connaught Place shopping area.

"We have no idea who did it and are making no inferences about whether it was a terrorist attack from internal or external groups," Delhi Lieutenant Governor H.L. Kapoor told reporters.

Citibank executive Jerry Rao said the bank had not been threatened before. "We are totally perplexed why we should be the target," he said from the bank's Indian headquarters in Bombay.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast. Sharmila Anand, an assistant bank manager whose forehead and scalp were cut by flying debris, said: "It was so sudden. I heard a loud explosion and there was utter confusion."

Anand, her head swathed in white bandages, was among 13 injured people treated at the nearby Ram Manohar hospital. Another victim was taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences for treatment.

Delhi police chief Vijay Karan said his men had been checking banks for possible bomb attacks and that the Citibank branch had been checked five times Monday. He did not know if police had visited it Tuesday.

"We already have a red alert. We will now have a redder alert,"

Kapoor told reporters after visiting the smouldering office.

The blast came exactly three years after 86 people were killed in a series of explosions from booby-trap bombs planted by Sikh separatists across north India.

Golden Temple siege

In the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, more than 700 people were evacuated from the Golden Temple complex Tuesday, a day after Indian security forces laid siege to the shrine to counter firing from inside by Sikh extremists.

Police lined up the men evacuated from the temple in a nearby lane and searched and interrogated them.

"At least 30 or 40 of them will turn out to be terrorists trying to slip away," said police inspector J.S. Bhatia, who supervised the searches.

More than 2,500 policemen armed with automatic rifles and light machine guns have taken up position around the sprawling temple complex.

The siege follows an exchange of fire between militants in the temple and paramilitary troops Monday in which at least five people were killed and 10 injured.



AIDS VICTIM BITES WAY INTO JAIL: An AIDS carrier with a plastic bag over her head is escorted by helmeted police after being arrested in Stockholm. The unidentified woman, who is a carrier of AIDS virus, has repeatedly bitten nurses at hospitals in the Swedish capital, and thus the police thought the plastic bag a necessary security precaution. According to experts, AIDS virus could be transmitted through body fluids.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Gromyko arrives in Romania

VIENNA (AP) — Soviet President Andrei A. Gromyko, the first member of the Kremlin politburo to visit Warsaw Pact ally Romania for almost a year, arrived in Bucharest Tuesday. He was welcomed by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. The Romanian news agency Agerpres, gave no details of the ceremony at Bucharest's Otopeni airport and did not say how long Gromyko would stay in Romania on what it termed "an official friendly visit." Gromyko is the first Soviet politburo member to visit Romania since Mikhail Gorbachev spent three days in Bucharest last May, making a nationwide television speech that contained barely veiled criticism of Ceausescu's domestic policies. The 70-year-old Romanian leader, in power since 1965, has refused to follow Gorbachev's reforms, saying repeatedly that his country has already perfected systems to decentralise economic management and broaden democracy.

Dutch offer award in hunt for IRA killers

ROERMOND (AP) — Stymied in their manhunt for the IRA guerrillas who killed three British servicemen, Dutch police Monday offered a 100,000-guilder (\$53,000) award for information leading to the killers' arrest. The award is the largest ever offered by police in The Netherlands, according to national police spokesman Louis Steens. Police investigating the May 1 bombing and shooting attacks by the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) have interviewed more than 300 people, but have not come up with any specific leads, Steens said. However, Steens claimed "The reward would have been offered even if there had been more results. This just reflects the seriousness ... of the crime."

Extremists steal arms in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Suspected left-wing extremists raided a police station in western Bangladesh, killing an officer and seizing arms and ammunition, police said Tuesday. They said about 30 raiders attacked the police station in Magura district Monday. They escaped with 20 rifles, six machine-guns and about 2,000 rounds of ammunition. A police official said the attackers were from the small revolutionary Sarbaha Party (party of the have-nots). Sarbaha raiders killed two policemen and stole arms in a similar attack in Brahmanbaria district last week. Sarbaha extremists killed about 100 people last year but suffered a setback in January when about 300 members surrendered to police.

Pentagon honours Carrington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Peter Lord Carrington, the outgoing secretary general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), was presented the Pentagon's highest civilian award Monday and lauded as "just the right leader" for the times. "This ceremony represents the heartfelt tribute of one nation among the many he served, a tribute on behalf of all citizens who today live markedly more secure because of this man's dedication," declared U.S. Defence Secretary Frank C. Carlucci, crediting Carrington with helping secure a new arms treaty with the Soviet Union.

Red Army hijacker held in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Police said Tuesday they had detained a member of the Japanese Red Army guerrilla group that hijacked an airliner to North Korea in 1970, and Japan's foreign minister accused Pyongyang of helping him return here. A police spokesman said 34-year-old Yasuhiro Shibata was found in a Tokyo apartment earlier this month during a check on suspicious people as part of security preparations for the Seoul Olympics in September. The spokesman said Shibata, one of nine members of the ultra-leftist guerrilla team that hijacked a Japan Airlines jet to North Korea, was carrying a forged passport. Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno told parliament that Shibata could not have left North Korea and returned to Japan "unless North Korea authorised his departure." A police official told parliament "it was possible the other seven surviving hijackers had already left North Korea."

Kanak kidnap suspects face Paris trial

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (R) — Melanesian Kanak rebels accused of killing four gendarmes and kidnapping other law officers were flown to Paris Tuesday as officials said they might not get a fair trial in New Caledonia.

A military spokesman said the 29 separatists were put on a special flight to France under police escort after a Paris judge ruled they should stand trial 20,000 kilometres away "for reasons of public security."

Judicial sources in New Caledonia told Reuters the trial would be better held away from the atmosphere of tension clouding the French Pacific territory.

Since the 60,000 population of Noumea, New Caledonia's capital, contains only about 10,000 Kanaks a jury would be likely to be predominantly white, they added.

Separatist leaders campaigning to end French rule of the sun-

baked islands charge that holding the trial in Paris is a political manoeuvre.

The 29 Kanaks are accused of hacking to death three paramilitary gendarmes, shooting dead a fourth and holding 23 French law officers hostage for two weeks in an ancient tribal cave on Ouvéa Island, 300 kilometres from Noumea.

A 60-man commando squad freed the hostages unharmed after a seven-hour battle last week, but 19 Kanak rebels and two French soldiers died in the rescue operation and Kanaks have questioned the imbalance in deaths between rebels and troops.

The separatists say the French want to hide the truth behind the death of the 19 rebels, which brought to a head two weeks of violence in New Caledonia.

"Key witnesses are being taken far off, spirited away from the territory to stand trial in a far

different atmosphere where no one will understand the tribal context," said Kanak chief Yeiwene Yeiwene.

In Paris, outgoing Defence Minister Andre Giraud Monday filed a libel suit on behalf of the armed forces against the daily newspaper Le Monde following allegations that soldiers shot dead injured rebels and others who had surrendered their arms.

General Jacques Vidal, head of armed forces on the strife-ridden archipelago, has denied charges of brutality and massacre, saying orders were given and followed to spare rebels who had laid down their arms.

Newly re-elected French President Francois Mitterrand, who approved the assault, has asked for details on the circumstances of the raid and the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) is demanding an official inquiry.

Reagan denies linking stargazing, policy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan denied Monday that he allowed astrology to play a role in determining his schedule, and the White House criticised Donald Reagan's book detailing Nancy Reagan's interest in stargazing.

At a Rose Garden ceremony honouring small business executives, Reagan was asked whether he would permit the consultation of astrologists in connection with schedule-making and public appearances.

"Well, you asked for it," he replied. "I can't because I never did."

Moments later, however,

Reagan's chief spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, said the president had misunderstood the question shouted by a reporter from the rear of the Rose Garden. Reagan thought he was being asked whether astrology was being used to make key policy decisions, Fitzwater said.

Earlier, Fitzwater left open the question of whether stargazing still plays a role in scheduling. For her part, the first lady says she will keep talking to her astrologer, her spokeswoman said.

"I was taken aback by the vengefulness of the attack. It

comes through to me that Don Reagan doesn't really like me," Mrs. Reagan was quoted as saying by her press secretary.

Fitzwater gave a sharply-worded statement to reporters as the first lengthy White House reaction to the book by the former White House chief of staff entitled, "For the Record: From Wall Street to Washington."

In the book, Reagan contended Reagan "laid down no rules and articulated no missions" while his wife consulted astrological advice in planning president's schedule.

The new book by Donald Reagan is a kiss-and-tell story in the mold of all books that seek to exploit the presidency or the first family for personal self-interest," Fitzwater said.

"The president emphasised last week that he made no policy decisions based on astrology. We recognise that the first lady has an interest in astrology," he added.

The spokesman defended the first lady's interest in stargazing, as well as her input into the preparation of the president's schedule.

"She has every reason to make contributions on presidential schedules and activities," Fitzwater said. "She has every right to continue it," he added at another point.

Colombia kidnappings come to peaceful end

BOGOTA (R) — Left-wing guerrillas protesting against foreign exploitation of Colombia's oil, have released most of the 15 foreigners and journalists they kidnapped last week in a spectacular publicity coup.

The majority of hostages, including West German, French, Swiss and Swedish citizens, freed Monday, said they were well treated.

They were kept in farms near the cities of Bogota and Medellin. A third batch was taken to a hill camp some 300 kilometres north of the capital.

It was the second wave of kidnappings by the National Liberation Army (ELN).

Last February, it captured a dozen local mayors and released them several days later after interrogating them.

